



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CARLO TRESKA

PART 10 OF 10

(SECTIONS 11&12)

BUFILE: 61-1335

Carlo Tresca

Section 11

July 30, 1946

CARLO TRESCA - Summary

It will be recalled that Carlo Tresca who for years was a notorious figure in New York's Italian colony was killed at 9:45 P.M. on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper, "Il Martello," at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York City, in the company of a friend, Giuseppe Callabi. Because of the prominent part he played in the American labor movement in the first quarter of the century and his colorful role in Italian-American politics, intense interest was aroused by his death. Since for decades he had the equal faculty of making friends and enemies in all strata of society, possible suspects were legion. Tresca, never neutral but always violently and wholeheartedly championing one cause or another, has been said to "take a pot shot at anyone he feels like." Tresca's vigorous journalistic battles conducted principally against Communist and Fascist sympathizers opened broad avenues of speculation in which were sought the reasons as well as the individual who directly or indirectly caused his death. To better understand the scope of Tresca's activities, his early activities and biographical data are hereinafter set forth.

Background Information

Carlo Tresca was born in the town of Sulmona, Province of Abruzzi, Italy, in 1879. It has been reported that prior to his departure from that country, he was editor of "Il Geune," a revolutionary, Socialist paper which was published in his native village, Sulmona, Italy. Tresca reportedly served in this capacity from 1900 to 1904, during which period he was imprisoned many times.

In 1903 subject was elected secretary of the Syndicate of Firemen and Railroad Engineers, the largest labor organization then existing in Italy.

Prior to coming to the United States, Tresca was sentenced to a prison term of two years for creating political agitation in Italy. Rather than complete his prison service, he escaped from Italy and proceeded to Switzerland.

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Early Years in the United States (1904-1925)

Tresca is reported to have arrived in this country in August, 1904, on the SS Touraine. From the outset the subject was considered an anarchist.

In the textile strikes in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912, he was active as an IWW organizer and played a prominent part in the disorder that occurred in that city.

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In January, 1913 Tresca, with Elisabeth Gurley Flynn, was an active leader in the New York City Hotel Workers' strike. This strike was accompanied by a considerable amount of rioting and disorder. Following the termination of the strike the subject assisted in organizing the Barbers of New York City in a similar strike.

In 1913 he was one of the leaders of a strike which occurred in the silk mills at Paterson, New Jersey. Tresca was allegedly responsible for the disorder that resulted therefrom, inasmuch as the strike was attributed in the main to his speeches and personal activity. One of the strikers in Paterson was killed and at the grave Tresca was called upon to speak. Several of the New York newspapers of April 23, 1913, have quoted him as saying at this time, "Fellow workers, do not forget the principle of the toilers who came from Italy. For blood, you must take blood." The subject was indicted in New Jersey for his participation in the Paterson strike. He was charged with making seditious utterances and with causing a riot. He was acquitted of the first charge on July 1, 1914, but was found guilty of the latter offense and was subsequently sentenced in the Lower Court to sixty days imprisonment. However, upon appeal, the conviction was dismissed.

In 1914 Tresca was active in New York City where he was associated with Alexander Berkman and other radicals. Taking advantage of the unemployment situation, demonstrations were staged throughout New York City by the subject and his companions. These demonstrations usually were culminated with the formation of processions and on one occasion in April, 1914 after a demonstration had been made in Union Square, Tresca declared to newspaper reporters that the New York City police were afraid to interfere with his actions.

Tresca was also an associate of Caron, Hanson, and Berg, three anarchists who were blown to pieces while making a bomb in a house on Lexington Avenue, New York City. Following the demise of these three men, Tresca was one of the speakers at a meeting held in their honor. He was interviewed on that occasion by a newspaper reporter who quoted the subject as saying, "I have no fault to find with him (Caron). I believe in violence. I believe he was justified in what he intended to do. Nothing can make me believe any other way than Caron did." On this occasion Tresca led the reporter to believe that the bomb which the three men were making was intended for Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

In 1914, Tresca filed suit for divorce, alleging that his wife was not a proper person to retain the custody of their child. Mrs. Tresca filed countersuit for divorce, naming as correspondent Elisabeth Gurley Flynn, but Mrs. Tresca was refused a divorce. It has been reported many times that Elisabeth Gurley Flynn, a high national and New York State functionary of the Communist Party, was Tresca's mistress.

In 1915, Tresca was active in the defense of Carbone and Arbano, who were convicted of placing a bomb in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. When interviewed by a reporter of the New York "World" as to the probable guilt of the defendants, Tresca is alleged to have said, "If these defendants are guilty, I want to see them convicted. I believe in violence, but only in violence when it advances the cause of labor." The aforementioned quotation appears in the April 3, 1915, issue of the New York "World." During the trial of Carbone and Arbano, an inspector of the New York Police Department testified that when Carbone was questioned subsequent to his apprehension, he advised the inspector that "he got the idea of planting bombs while attending anarchist meetings and hearing fellows like Tresca speak."

Tresca was closely associated with and a friend of Luigi Galleani, the leader of the then well-known Galleani group of anarchists in the New England district.

In 1916, while Tresca was active in the iron ore mines strike in Minnesota, one of the strikers was shot and killed. At his burial Tresca is alleged to have administered the following oath to the persons present: "Fellow workers, I want you to take the following oath, 'I solemnly swear that if any Oliver gunmen shoot or wound any miners, we will take a tooth for a tooth, an eye for an eye, or a life for a life.'"

In a speech made by Tresca on November 30, 1913, during an iron ore strike in Minnesota, he is reported to have told the strikers that they had just begun their fight and that they could only call themselves victors when they had planted the red flag on the mining properties. He is alleged to have said "not the rag with the stars and stripes, but the red flag of our redemption." He is stated to have closed his speech by saying that when they have won this strike and returned to work, the miners should save their money and instruct their children to save their money in order to buy cartridges with which to take the mining properties away from the "ruffians and dirty bosses" and give the property back to humanity to whom it belonged.

In July, 1916 Tresca was indicted in Minnesota in connection with the death of Deputy Sheriff J. C. Myron, who was killed in the iron ore strike of 1913. In December, 1916 he was acquitted of all charges.

For many years Tresca has been the editor of various radical Italian publications. Prior to 1924 and up to the time of his assassination on January 11, 1943, he was the editor and publisher of "Il Martello" (The Hammer) in New York City.

In addition to the publication of "Il Martello," Tresca has also engaged in the distribution of a considerable number of books and pamphlets which have dealt with the subject "Anarchy."

The subject is alleged to have been extremely active as a worker and speaker on behalf of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee.

In the issue of "Il Martello" dated April 26, 1919, there appears an editorial referring to the deportation of a number of Russians. From that editorial the following is quoted: "We curse your bourgeoisie Republic. You may imprison us, you can blind us but ideas cannot be deported. The ideas we have sown with a full hand will germinate — will bear fruit. It will be those ideas which will enlighten the slaves on whose ample, curved shoulders your pretorians are today resting. Ideas are not imprisoned; are not deported; they remain. We curse you, oh lying Republic. We denounce you before the world."

In the May 1, 1921, issue of the same newspaper, the following appeared: "To aid it (Communism) according to us, it is necessary and sufficient that all be free and that all possess the means of production; that no one impose his own will on another and that no one shall oblige another to work for him. And it is to realize these conditions that we believe in the necessity of the violent revolution. Once the material obstacle (the Government) is overthrown, all violence will be useless, harmful, and criminal."

In "Il Martello" of September 17, 1921, there appeared an article captioned "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" which, in its own words and by way of quotation from the Italian anarchist paper "Umanita Nuova," was said to be an incitement to assassination of the Italian Fascist deputy Bottai, who was then in the United States.

On May 14, 1922, the subject is reported to have addressed a gathering of radical Italians at Swatara, Pennsylvania, and in the course of his address he allegedly stated that all governments were corrupt and that the people as a whole would be better off without any government at all. At this point in his speech one of the persons present asked Tresca if he were a Socialist, and in reply Tresca stated that he was not a Socialist but an anarchist.

In the summer of 1923 Tresca was taken into custody and charged with mailing and delivering unmailable matter through the United States mail. At his arraignment the then Congressman Fiorello LaGuardia appeared as his counsel. The obscene matter which formed the basis for his arrest was said to be of an extremely improper and vile nature which appeared in the May 5, 1923, issue of "Il Martello." On December 8, 1923, he was sentenced to one year and one day and the Circuit Court of Appeals evidently affirmed the decision of the District Court, for Tresca was incarcerated in the Atlanta Penitentiary on January 7, 1925. However, he was released from the institution by commutation of sentence on May 6, 1925. During the trial Tresca admitted or said that his wife was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and he admitted that he had been living with her for a period of twelve years, having been separated from his first wife.

More Recent Activities of the Subject (1925-1943)

From 1925 until the time of his death the subject reportedly continued his activities as agitator, anarchist, author, and editor. All during this period he edited "Il Martello," an anarchist newspaper with offices located at 2 West 15th Street, New York, New York.

During the course of his lifetime, Tresca is reported to have been arrested on 36 occasions on such charges as conspiracy, inciting to riot, unlawful assemblage, blasphemy, slander, libel, disturbing the peace, murder, and criminal obscenity.

From the information available it does not appear that the subject ever filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States. In 1926 the Italian Government was reported to have started proceedings in Rome, in order to deprive Tresca of his Italian citizenship. This alleged action on the part of the Italian Government was attributed to the anti-Mussolini and anti-Fascist activities of the subject in the United States.

Information has been received to the effect that on May 13, 1927, Tresca "raided" the offices of the Alliance Fascisti Il Duce in the Bronx and he demanded, at the point of a gun, that 150 applications for membership on file in the safe be handed over to him. Thereafter he was arrested on a charge of felonious assault. This charge was dismissed by the Grand Jury on March 15, 1928. In the same year, 1927, according to the November 3, 1927, issue of the "New York Times" he was the head of the Anti-Fascisti Alliance of North America.

According to the "World-Telegram" of December 27, 1928, the postal authorities barred several issues of his paper from the mails. The basis for this action on the part of the Post Office Department has not been established. On June 28, 1933, the New York "World-Telegram" reported that Tresca was arrested on that date in Philadelphia following a meeting wherein a clash resulted between the Fascists and the Communists in Eastern Pennsylvania. Tresca was discharged by the local police on the same day.

The subject was reported to be a member of the American Committee to Defend Leon Trotsky in 1937 and 1938.

Tresca is reported as being definitely anti-Fascist, living as he said "for the day Mussolini is run out of Italy and I can return to die in peace."

In recent years Tresca is reported to have ceased active participation in labor troubles, devoting the majority of his time to a crusade against Fascism.

At the time he was slain the subject was reportedly working with the Office of War Information to form an Italian-American Victory Committee, which allegedly would have embraced all anti-Fascists and anti-Nazi groups, including Communists. Tresca had in the past been a leader in the movement that barred Communists from membership in the Mazzini Society and in keeping with his beliefs was reportedly opposed to the inclusion of Communists in the Italian-American Victory Committee. Tresca outwardly indicated his opposition to the acceptance of persons whom he considered as pro-Fascist in the Committee, naming specifically Generoso Pope, editor of the "Il Progresso Italo-Americano," whom he branded as a former apologist of Fascism and dictatorship.

Murder of Carlo Tresca

Tresca's death received a tremendous amount of publicity in the various New York publications. Speculations and accusations appeared in many publications, Tresca's friends charging that the Communists were responsible for his murder, whereas the Communists countered with the allegation that an agent of the OVRA (Italian Secret Police) had committed the crime.

Communist responsibility was implied by Luigi Antonini, vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, a close associate of the dead man and by Antonini's followers. Their account stressed Tresca's part in frustrating Communist attempts to gain admission to the Mazzini Society and to the OWI sponsored victory councils. Communists, on the other hand, placed the blame for the murder upon former Fascist sympathizers chief among whom was said to be Generoso Pope, editor of the New York daily "Progresso Italo-Americano." This explanation was elaborated upon in a speech delivered by Ezio Taddi at a Tresca commemoration rally on February 14, 1943, and was later distributed in pamphlet form.

"Il Martello" for January, 1945 carried a rehash of the accusations, counter-accusations and gossip which briefly summarized appears as follows:

In December of 1942 an unknown person presented Tresca with a case of imported Chianti and thereupon behaved so suspiciously that Tresca is said to have become quite upset. About that period of time he is said to have confided to his friends and intimates that he had been threatened with death. On December 30, 1942, in a meeting of the New York section of the Mazzini Society Tresca bitterly attacked Fascism and demanded that Fascist elements be eliminated from society. On January 8, 1943, Tresca sent four letters to members of the new committee of the Mazzini Society. It was further said that on January 11, 1943, Tresca invited some important people to be present at the meeting. These individuals are unknown. (The above referred to letters will again be discussed hereinafter.)

"Il Martello" pointed out that Elio Taddi after first accusing the Stalinists changed his story and then accused individuals in the underworld connected with the Fascists and with Genesee Pope. Further, trouble had arisen between the two great garment unions during which Tresca allegedly showed his willingness to cooperate for peace. In Taddi's pamphlet "The Tresca Case" he described the connections between the leaders Buonomo, Garofalo, and Carmine Galante and Pope and he pointed out among other things that the girl friend of Garofalo was Miss Dolores Faconti, Assistant Attorney General (sic). Taddi described the banquet at the Manhattan Club of September 8, 1942, and said that among those present were Corai, Pope, Garofalo, Dolores Faconti, "politicians, the underworld, Fascists....."

"Il Martello" quoted a January issue of the "New York Post" as stating that Tresca had opposed the formation of an Italian national committee "Council of Victory which had been joined by Stalinists and Fascists," including the Fascist-Democrats. The "Post" charged "This Council of Victory was to be launched on January 14, 1943, three days after the crime. The fact remains that Carlo was opposed to the entrance of Stalinists and the Fascists and especially the 'dear' friend of Antonini, Pope." "Il Martello" as well as various other New York publications featured as suspects Garofalo, Carmine Galante, Frank Nuccio, Jesus Sormante Vidali, also known as Carlos Contreras, as well as Giuseppe Nudi. In addition to these individuals some speculation also concerned one Frank Citrano, alias Chick Wilson.

Carmine Galante

Carmine Galante, with alias Carmine Galante, alias Bruno Russo, alias Charles Russo, alias Charles Bruno, was born in 1908. At the time he was taken into custody of the New York Police Department for questioning, he was employed as a helper on a truck operated by the Knickerbocker Trucking Company, 520 Broadway, New York City. Available information reflects that apparently Galante, an ex-convict and the subject of frequent arrests, appeared at the office of the Parole Division, 80 Centre Street, New York City, an hour and a half before Tresca's murder to make his weekly report, inasmuch as he was under parole supervision until 1945, he recently having completed the service of a twelve-and-one-half-year sentence for armed robbery. Two investigators from the parole board are reported by the New York "Daily Mirror" of January 14, 1943, to have placed Galante under surveillance immediately after he left their office. Galante is said to have dashed to an automobile which was parked nearby with the motor running with another man behind the wheel. Parole officers are said to have taken the license number which license number was said to be the same carried by the automobile in which the assassin and his accomplice made their escape. Despite intensive questioning by the New York Police Department, Galante denied any implication of the crime.

Jesus Sorrento Vidali

Vidali better known as Carlos Contreras, has also been known by the following aliases: Enea Sorrenti, Carlos Sorrento, Carlo Contreras and Jesus Sorrento Vidal.

From available data, it appears that Contreras in 1923, a year after Mussolini seized control of Italy, fled his own land and came to the United States where he aligned himself with Communist elements. At a later date he is said to have proceeded to Mexico from which country he was deported. Thereafter he turned up in Spain where he fought as commandant of the Fifth Regiment in the Spanish Loyalist Army in the Spanish Civil War. Tresca at one time made an accusation that while Contreras was in Spain he murdered a man in Barcelona.

The New York "Journal-American" for January 15, 1943, reported that "when Franco defeated the Loyalists, Contreras succeeded in getting back to Mexico and soon thereafter Tresca charged him with a murder in that country." Tresca further accused Contreras of killing a young woman who had succeeded in learning a great deal about Contreras' activities.

It has been reported that Contreras, an Italian, has posed as a Spanish refugee in Mexico where he is said to be at the present time. It has also been alleged that he was a leading figure in bringing about the purge of Laborde and Campa from the Communist Party in Mexico. It has been said that he is closely connected with Vincente Lombardo Toledano, Mexican labor leader, and he has been referred to as a Comintern functionary and one of the principal influential contact men between "Free Germany" and the Mexican Communist movement. On several occasions he has been alleged to be an OGPU operative in Mexico City.

Immediately after Tresca's murder a rumor was heard in New York to the effect that Contreras had been in New York during that time and many were of the opinion that Contreras had either killed or caused Tresca's death. Information subsequently developed showed that on the night Tresca was killed Contreras was attending a dinner in Mexico City. In addition, it might be said that no record of his entrance into the United States was found at the border crossing points on the American-Mexican border.

Giuseppe Nudi

Immediately after Tresca's assassination, an individual later identified as Giuseppe Nudi directed a communication to Contreras in Mexico in which he indicated that he, Nudi, might possibly have been connected with the crime in some manner.

On September 1, 1943, Nudi originally attacked and stabbed Ettore Manfredi, an Italian anti-Fascist radio commentator and a close friend of Carlo Tresca. Although Nudi was rabidly anti-Tresca and may have had a motive for committing the crime, information on hand indicates that on the night Tresca was killed Nudi was in fact confined in the New York State Hospital, Central Islip, Long Island, New York. On September 21, 1943, he was committed to the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Beacon, New York. It is to be noted that Nudi is apparently familiar with the activities of the Italian criminal element in and around Mulberry Street in New York City.

Frank Citrano, alias Chick Wilson

On February 11, 1942, an anonymous letter alleged that Citrano who resided at 250 Mott Street, New York City, and who operated a place of business at 44 Prince Street, New York City, belonged to an underworld mob. This letter stated that "he is a bootlegger and crime incorporated." The anonymous correspondent further pointed out that he and his mob held meetings at 250 Mott Street; maintained a supply of guns in the cellar of his residence; was connected with the United Citizens Club, Inc.; and had a powerful political pull with New York leaders and judges.

At one time it was said that Citrano made collections for Carmine Galante.

Frank Garofalo

Information is at hand indicating that Frank Garofalo is the head of a large syndicate known as the Castellammarese gang of which Frank Nuccio is a member. Garofalo is reported to be a big-time racketeer in New York City who allegedly is in control of the Italian section of the New York underworld. Nuccio, who has been arrested on many occasions, chiefly in the operation of stills and in the sale of illegal alcohol, is said to be a close friend of Carmine Galante who is reported to be a gunman and also a close associate of Garofalo.

Information on hand also indicates that Garofalo is a one-time associate of Charles (Lucky) Luciano. Although he is reportedly not dangerous from a political sense, he is thought to be criminally dangerous. It is known that at a dinner held in the Manhattan Club Hall in New York City on September 10, 1942, by the War Savings Bond Committee of Americans of Italian Extraction, Tresca upon seeing Garofalo present is said to have stated, "Even that gunman is here." Tresca immediately arose and left the room.

Garofalo allegedly threatened Tresca's life in 1931. Garofalo is said to have had several motives for killing Tresca, the chief one being the fact that Tresca had criticized Garofalo's girl friend, Miss Dolores Faconti, Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, for associating with "that gunman."

Massini Society Meeting

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An informant has advised that on the Thursday prior to Tresca's murder he visited the office of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and spoke to August Bellanca. It is to be noted that August Bellanca is the head of the Italian section of the Amalgamated Clothing Union and his wife, Dorothy Bellanca, is the sister of Sydney Hillman of the Political Action Committee. Tresca is said to have told Bellanca that he was going to hold a meeting at his office on January 11 for the purpose of giving greater impetus to the activity of the Massini Society towards supporting the war effort. At the same time Tresca expressed himself as being unalterably opposed to the inclusion of Genesee Pope in the activities of the Massini Society as had been desired by Luigi Antonini. An invitation to the Massini Society meeting was sent to Sala which he claims did not reach him until January 12, 1943. Other individuals to whom these invitations were sent were Giuseppe Callabi, who was with Tresca when he died, Vanni Montana, an assistant to Luigi Antonini, and another individual who was employed by the "Daily News" in New York City. When speaking to Bellanca Tresca is said to have related that he had a curious dream that someone had died and that he felt quite depressed.

Another source indicated that shortly before the homicide Tresca had had a conversation with someone at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and when he left he was quite pale and upon returning to his own office he remarked that he was "through." At the time of the receipt of the above information it was further stated that Bellanca, Antonini and Pope used the services of members of the same gang for strong arm purposes. However, this informant did not believe that any of these individuals would have been interested in causing Tresca's death. It was said that Tresca used to boast that he was friendly with a number of the "strong arm" men and for that reason he had nothing to fear. Just prior to Tresca's death there was said to be a rumor to the effect that Tresca had been approached by one Giovanni Mancilaviati, a Brooklyn gangster friendly to Tresca, who warned him that things were not going so well and that he had better take care of himself. Mancilaviati is said to be a friend of Bruno Bellia, an organizer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union who resides in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

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Miscellaneous

On January 19, 1943, an anonymous communication was received which read as follows:

"Gentlemen: Kindly check immediately for unusual activities: Edmond Maina: Insurance Business. Office 230 Atlantic St. Stamford, Connecticut. Has some means of communications with foreign agents abroad. Has some connections with group or party involved in the 'Carlo Tresca' matter in New York City. Believes more to follow. Is advocating nonreading of 'Pope' papers. Still makes it a point to listen to foreign broadcasts nightly by short wave. Is very interested in Stamford Harbor. Has maps of same and plants, also docks. Is a graduate of some foreign navigation school on Italy. Is connected with some group of subversive workers in Port Chester, New York and Stamford. Both his home and office should be thoroughly checked."

In the summer of 1945, information was received to the effect that Carlo Tresca accused Louis R. Harkavy and Shachno Epstein, alias Joseph Berson, of having been implicated in the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, prominent Communist, on June 5, 1937. Both Harkavy and Epstein were reputedly OGPU agents. Harkavy is a former pharmacist who is generally referred to as "Doctor." He was the husband of Minna R. Harkavy, sculptress and reported Communist. He was born April 10, 1882, at Mirr, Russia, and resided at the Hotel Ansonia, 2109 Broadway, New York City, in June, 1944. He was naturalized in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York at Brooklyn, New York, on July 26, 1905. He is possibly identical with one Louis Harkavy who was once connected with "Morning Freiheit." He was registered with Local Board No. 24, 200 West 71 Street, New York City, in 1942. His description was:

Age	60
Height	5' 8½"
Weight	121 pounds
Eyes	hazel
Hair	gray
Complexion	light
Occupation	retired

Epstein, reportedly an intimate of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, was reported to have returned to Russia after 1937 where he was involved in some difficulty. During the investigation into the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, New York newspapers reported that Carlo Tresca furnished the United States Attorney with the name of a suspect. It is believed that the name furnished may have been either that of Harkavy or Epstein.

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 4, 1946

SAC, New York

RECORDED 61-1335-403

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INDEXED

CARLO TRESKA

INTERNAL SECURITY - I

Recently Mr. Jack Gromet, Head of the Homicide Bureau of the New York County District Attorney's Office, called at the Bureau together with two of his associates, Mr. Thomas Faye and Mr. Joseph Titlow, and at the request of New York District Attorney Frank Hogan were interviewed at some length concerning the murder of Carlo Tresca. As you will, of course, recall Tresca was assassinated at 9:45 p.m., January 11, 1943, as he left the offices of his newspaper, "Il Martello" at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

While at the Bureau, Mr. Gromet pointed out that although an intensive continuous investigation has been conducted by the New York authorities of the Tresca murder since it occurred they have not as yet been able to solve the case, and that the New York authorities would be deeply appreciative if the Bureau would furnish them any information in its possession which might be of assistance to them in solving this murder. It was, of course, explained to these men that since the Bureau had not conducted an investigation of the Tresca murder, in all probability the New York authorities are in possession of far more information than is the Bureau on this particular point. Gromet stated he realized, of course, that the Bureau had not conducted any investigation of the murder, but stated that in view of the Bureau's many sources and the possible political implications in the Tresca killing he felt the Bureau might have some information that might be of assistance in solving the case.

Mr. Gromet was advised that the Bureau would, of course, be glad to cooperate with the New York authorities in this matter, and that all available information in the Bureau's files concerning Tresca would be carefully reviewed and the New York District Attorney's Office furnished with a memorandum incorporating any information developed from this file review which would appear to be of any assistance to the New York authorities in solving the Tresca case.

Attached hereto are three copies of a twelve-page summary memorandum concerning Carlo Tresca that has been prepared from the Bureau's files and contains all information in the Bureau's possession which it is believed may be of possible assistance in solving this case and which is not known to be already in the possession of the New York authorities. It should be noted that pursuant to the specific request of Mr. Gromet, in preparing this memorandum special stress has been laid on all information dating from 1940 to the time of Tresca's death on January 11, 1943.

It is desired that you personally, at your earliest convenience, make a copy of the attached memorandum available to the New York County District

MAILED 7

FEB 6 1946 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6 FEB 1946

61-1335-403

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SAC, New York

- Attorney, Mr. Frank Hogan. At the time you make this memorandum available to him, you should refer to the conversations with Mr. Gromet at the Bureau and should advise Mr. Hogan that this memorandum contains all information available to the Bureau which is believed to be of possible assistance in solving the case, with particular stress on information dating from 1940 to 1943. It is also believed advisable that you advise Mr. Hogan that this memorandum, while complete in that respect, does not include all of the information in the Bureau's files with regard to Tresca since this information is extremely voluminous and much of it dates back to the period of Tresca's activities shortly after the First World War and does not appear to be of any possible practical value in connection with the present investigation by the New York authorities of the Tresca murder.

You are expressly instructed to give this matter your immediate personal attention, and I desire that you advise the Bureau of your action in this connection.

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Attachments

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Time of Interview 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
1-8-46

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: February 1, 1946

FROM : D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Carson ✓
Mr. Egan ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Pennington ✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

You will, of course, recall that Carlo Tresca for many years, from before the First World War until his assassination in 1943, was an extremely prominent and notorious figure in the New York Italian political picture, and that by virtue of his activities at varying periods as an agitator, Communist, anarchist, and finally as a bitter caustic anti-Fascist and anti-Communist leftist, publicist and organizer Tresca, prior to his death, was considered the number one stormy petrel on the Italian political scene in this country.

You will recall further that Tresca was assassinated at 9:45 p.m. on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper "Il Martello" at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, by an assailant or assailants unknown who shot him in the back of the head. Immediately prior to his death and for several years before, Tresca had been involved in an active bitter campaign against both Fascist and Communist elements in the Italian colony in the New York area. As a result of these and his other prior activities Tresca had made innumerable close friends and supporters, as well as countless enemies. It should be remembered further that the assassination of Tresca immediately evoked a storm of protest, criticism and discussion, and that many of Tresca's friends and associates flatly claimed (without apparent direct proof) that the assassination of Tresca was a political murder and was consummated by Stalinist elements. Italian Communists immediately vehemently denied all such allegations and laid the counterclaim that Tresca had been undoubtedly assassinated by Italian Fascists.

You will recall that as a result of the controversy and discussion of Tresca's death, many liberal and particularly Socialist elements attempted to force the Bureau into an active investigation of his murder, which you will, of course, recall you declined since it was a matter completely within the jurisdiction of the New York authorities and not within the Bureau's province.

It should be noted also in connection with this matter that the New York City Police Department and the New York District Attorney's Office for New York County, New York, have conducted, during the three years since Tresca's death, a continuing intensive investigation in an effort to identify and prosecute his murderer or murderers. To date this investigation as reflected by the Bureau's files and as will be more fully substantiated in this memorandum, has been almost completely ineffective, although the New York Police Department has identified one subject probably one of the murderers in the person of Carmine Galante concerning whom additional data are set out below.

WHL:MIP

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58 MAR 11 1946

Memorandum for The Director

At the above time pursuant to your instructions, I together with Supervisor W. K. Harvey, who was familiar with the information available to the Bureau concerning the Tresca murder, interviewed at length Mr. Jack Gromet, Head of the Homicide Bureau of the New York County District Attorney's Office, and Thomas Faye and Joseph Titilow who are also representatives of the New York County District Attorney's Office working under Gromet in connection with the Tresca murder.

In this connection you will also, of course, recall that the interview conducted with Gromet and his two associates was arranged with you by the New York District Attorney, Frank Hogan.

At the inception of this lengthy interview, Gromet, who it should be noted did most of the talking, explained that both the New York Police Department and the District Attorney's Office are extremely anxious to break the Tresca case, but that to date their efforts have been relatively unsuccessful. Gromet pointed out that the New York authorities have given this matter a most intensive investigation on a continuous basis since the murder of Tresca, but that despite the full three years of investigation and the fact that literally hundreds of suspects have been picked out they have found it impossible to date to satisfactorily solve the case. Mr. Gromet and his associates pointed out further that considerable pressure is still being brought to bear on the New York District Attorney's Office by various liberal elements and particularly by the organization formed some time ago named "The Carlo Tresca Memorial Committee" which periodically has made efforts to involve the Bureau in this investigation and has published frequent charges of laxity in connection with the case on the part of the New York District Attorney's Office. Gromet pointed out that Mr. Hogan and the other members of the District Attorney's staff, as well as the New York Police Department officers who have been assigned to this investigation have become "pretty fed up" with these false allegations, particularly in view of the fact that the investigation has been given by the New York authorities most intensive attention.

Mr. Gromet and his associates stated that they felt that in view of the Bureau's many sources of information and the fact that this assassination might possibly have political implications, the Bureau might have some information concerning Tresca which would be of value to them in solving the case. Mr. Gromet stated that they would be extremely grateful if the Bureau would furnish to them any information which might be of value in solving this murder. Mr. Gromet and his associates were advised that, of course, the Bureau would be very happy to furnish them any information we could which would be of assistance to them, but that we had not, as they knew, investigated the murder of Tresca and that consequently they undoubtedly had more complete information concerning his assassination than we did. Gromet advised then that he realized, of course, that we had not investigated the case but stated he thought we might have some information which would be of assistance to them or which might furnish them additional and possibly productive leads in connection with their future investigation.

Memorandum for The Director

I assured Mr. Gromet that we would be very happy to furnish him such information we might have which would appear to be of any interest to him, and would not appear to be a duplication of information already in the possession of the New York authorities. At this point, the ramifications of the Tresca murder were discussed at great length with Gromet, Faye and Titilow. These individuals asked a number of questions concerning information possibly in the Bureau's possession, and the majority of their questions were, of course, answered orally. It was explained to them, however, that in view of Tresca's long radical political career the Bureau had voluminous information concerning him, including a ten section main file and a number of other references, many of them dating back to the period immediately after the last war. It was explained to these individuals that in view of the fact that in the years immediately preceding his death Tresca was of no great investigative interest to the Bureau within its jurisdiction, much of the information we possessed would undoubtedly predate his murder by several years.

Gromet stated that he, his associates and, of course, the District Attorney, Mr. Hogan, would be most deeply appreciative if they would be given an opportunity to review the Bureau's files on Tresca or in the alternative if the Bureau could furnish them with any information in our possession which might be of possible assistance in identifying the murderers of Tresca. Gromet was, of course, advised that we could not make our files available to him, but that we would be happy to furnish him with information in them, after a review thereof, which it was felt would be of interest or assistance to the New York authorities. Mr. Gromet expressed his deep appreciation for this and stated that he was particularly desirous of receiving information concerning Tresca which might suggest possible motives, enemies of Tresca or individuals who might have information concerning his murder with particular stress on information dating from 1940 until the time of Tresca's death on January 11, 1943.

At this point in the interview, Mr. Gromet and his associates related in considerable detail the results of the New York authorities' investigation of the Tresca case. Their observations in this connection are believed to be of some interest and consequently are being briefly summarized below.

According to these individuals, there were apparently at least three men involved in the assassination of Tresca. The man who did the actual shooting who waited with a gun at the 15th Street entrance of the building housing Tresca's newspaper, another gunman who waited at the 5th Avenue entrance of this building, and a third man who drove the murder car. It will be recalled in connection with the man who waited at the 5th Avenue entrance where Tresca did not appear and who apparently did not do the actual killing that he left a loaded .38 caliber police positive revolver near the 5th Avenue entrance which, according to Gromet, contained no fingerprints and could not be traced. All three of these individuals expressed the opinion that the assassination was an unusual workmanlike job and advised, as the Bureau has known for sometime, that they had identified one of the believed murderers, Carmine Galante, who was seen shortly prior to the murder in the car which was later identified by the police as the murder car. Galante, who has a long criminal record and the reputation in the underworld as a "killer", is believed by Gromet, Faye, and Titilow to have done the actual shooting but although he was apprehended and returned to the New York State Prison at Sing Sing for breaking his parole absolutely no success has been had in making him talk.

Memorandum for The Director

Consequently, according to these individuals, the other two murderers are not only unidentified by the police but they have no real knowledge as to their identities. At this point, Faye expressed the opinion that the job was so well done that it looked almost as if three gunmen from three different parts of the country had been brought together for the purpose of murdering Tresca without being aware of each other's identities, except perhaps by the use of first names only.

It was also ascertained from these individuals that the New York authorities had not been successful in tracing the ownership of the murder car. In this connection, it is recalled that some weeks before the killing the car was bought casually at a New York used car lot by an individual giving a false name and address who has never been identified. Gromet advised that the owner of the used car lot claims he will be able to identify the person who purchased the car, but although efforts have been made to have him identify numerous suspects, no identification has yet been effected.

At the conclusion of the interview, all three of these individuals expressed their deep appreciation for the Bureau's cooperation and particularly for the Bureau's willingness to furnish them with any information in the Bureau's possession which might assist them in solving the case. They were advised that a complete review would be made of the Bureau's files concerning Tresca, and that they would be furnished in New York with a memorandum containing any information of assistance to them. It was specifically pointed out in this connection that in view of the voluminous character of the Bureau's information concerning Tresca, it would undoubtedly take several days to complete a full review of this information and to evaluate it for the purpose of abstracting therefrom anything of value to the New York authorities.

ACTION:

1. A complete review of the Bureau's files concerning Tresca has been made and there is attached a twelve-page summary memorandum concerning him containing all the information in the Bureau's files which it is believed may be of value to the New York authorities in possibly solving the Tresca murder. In preparing this memorandum, particular stress has been placed on the available information dating from 1940 until Tresca's death in 1943. It should be noted that the attached summary memorandum includes all the pertinent information obtained as a result of the review of several sections of the main file on Carlo Tresca, as well as approximately 1,500 collateral see references.

2. Attached for your approval is a personal and confidential letter to SAC E. E. Conroy of the New York Office enclosing copies of this memorandum and directing that he personally make one copy thereof available to New York County District Attorney Frank Hogan.

Attachments

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: February 4, 1946

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

There is being enclosed for the Bureau's information the following items which appeared in New York publications in connection with the above captioned individual:

- (1) A letter to the editor of the "New York Times" by OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD and NORMAN THOMAS, which appeared on January 18, 1946.
- (2) An article entitled, "Tresca Committee Asks Few Pertinent Questions to D. A. Frank S. Hogan", which appeared in "La Parola" on January 19, 1946.

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EX-7

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TIMES
1/18/46

Action Sought in Tresca Case

To The Editor of The New York Times:

You have the cordial thanks of the Tresca Memorial Committee for good coverage of the Carlo Tresca memorial meeting in Cooper Union last Thursday. For the sake of the record, may we comment on certain phases of that demonstration?

We refer particularly to the speech of Eleazar Lipsky, former assistant district attorney, who for over a year was assigned to the Tresca murder investigation but who resigned Jan. 1. Invited by our committee to speak, he made a defense of District Attorney Hogan's office notable for vehemence and a little astonishing for some of the things he said. Whatever his intentions, that speech had the effect of being misleading.

Obviously on the defensive, Mr. Lipsky struck at "outsiders" for "getting in the way of the investigation" and for giving information to the press "that should not have been made public".

Let us say here that our committee has never made public any data that could possibly have hampered the official inquiry, and we do not know of any one else who has.

Mr. Lipsky did not meet any of the charges that had been made against Mr. Hogan's office in the fight to get tangible action toward finding and punishing Tresca's killers. He did not attempt to justify the fact that that office let three years go by without questioning two close friends of Tresca, familiar with his political enmities.

One added charge in our formal statement Thursday night did not get into the press: When Tresca was killed in 1943, he had in a pocket a check for several hundred dollars, signed by another intimate friend--a prominent labor union official. Yet that friend, who also knew much about Tresca's conflicts, likewise has never been examined by anyone in authority.

In April, 1944, Mr. Hogan was urged to ask the FBI for help in the Tresca case, because of its international implications. Though admitting that his office had reached a dead end in the inquiry, he refused to do this, asserting that his men were "just as competent" as those of the FBI. After twenty-one months with no apparent progress, isn't it time for him to reconsider that refusal?

Oswald Garrison Villard,
Norman Thomas
New York, Jan. 15, 1946.

61-1335-405

"La Parola"
January 19, 1946

TRESCA COMMITTEE ASKS FEW PERTINENT

QUESTIONS TO D. A. FRANK S. HOGAN

A Statement By Norman Thomas

The following statement was made by Norman Thomas, chairman of the Carlo Tresca Memorial Committee, at the mass-meeting held in Cooper Union, on Thursday evening January 10, to commemorate the third anniversary of the murder that shocked the labor and anti-fascist movement of all countries.

"There can be no reasonable doubt that the murder of CARLO TRESCA three years ago tomorrow night, at Fifth Avenue and 15th Street, during the dim-out, was a political murder. There has been no hint of any other possibility. So long as that wanton crime is unpunished in this city, where unpunished murders by gangsters with political connections are already a challenge to the integrity and capacity of our democracy, we shall have the further precedent of the safe use of murder to silence a political foe.

"I have already said that we are not here for controversial speculation about the identity of the criminals who pulled the trigger or who planned and paid for this killing. Suffice it to say that obviously Tresca's activities had incurred the hatred of Fascists, recent converts from Fascism, and Communists. It also was publicly stated that he had insulted one or more individuals who had connections with both the underworld and with influential politicians. Proper official investigation might have revealed other possibilities. All these circumstances and any others suggested by evidence that the police have turned up should have been relentlessly and fairly explored.

The Abandoned Automobile

"There was a great hue and cry when Carlo Tresca was murdered, great activity by the District Attorney's office and the police. There were newspaper stories indicating that indictments might come any day. The automobile in which the killers apparently escaped was found abandoned, with the keys in the ignition lock, a few blocks from the crime scene. A suspect was arrested, a paroled gunman, CARMELO GALANTE. Two parole officers declared they saw him enter that same car, of which they took the number.

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"two hours before Tresca was killed. Galante was picked up at Prince and Elizabeth Streets, within a block of the garage in which the escape car had been kept. Later the garage owner was arrested. Both suspects subsequently were released. At that time there were persistent reports of sharp conflict between the District Attorney's office and the Police Department. Certain high police officials, according to published stories, felt that Galante had been arrested too soon, that he should have been left free to roam about and should have been trailed to discover those with whom he associated.

"So far as the public knows, all the great activity by the authorities in this case has been fruitless. There have been no indictments, and there is not prospect of any. And certain circumstantial evidence which I shall briefly recapitulate sheds strong doubt on the capacity or zeal of those in charge of the District Attorney's investigation.

"In the Spring of 1944 I was one of a delegation of three which went to see DISTRICT ATTORNEY FRANK S. HOGAN about this unsolved crime. He admitted that his office had reached a dead end in the Tresca investigation. We urged that he invite the FBI to help in that inquiry. But he declined to do this, contending that his investigators were just as competent as those of the FBI.

"That day Mr. Hogan certainly implied, if he did not say so specifically, that his staff had followed every clue in the Tresca case to its logical end. We didn't question that statement then, had no reason to. Mr. Hogan was courteous enough; we asked some questions about particular points, and got the answers.

Pagnucco 'The Investigator'

"Several weeks later, however, some of our associates began to learn surprising things about the conduct of the investigation by Mr. Hogan's office. Photostatic evidence of their findings was assembled. I have some of those photostats here tonight.

"In August, 1944, that evidence was presented to the District Attorney by four responsible citizens -- MORRIS L. ERNST, FORMER MUNICIPAL JUSTICE DOROTHY KENYON, ROGER M. BALDWIN, AND EDWARD C. LINDHMAN.

"For nearly two years a young assistant district attorney named LOUIS A. PAGNUCCO was in charge of the Italian end of the Tresca investigation -- clearly the most important end. Mr. Ernst and his group handed to Mr. Hogan evidence showing that Pagnucco had been closely associated

"with Fascists and Fascist sympathizers in the past, had received honors and awards from them, and had fulsomely praised Mussolini's regime.

Pagnucco's Fascist Connections

"In 1929 Louis Pagnucco, as a senior in the College of the City of New York, wrote a thesis entitled ITALIAN FINANCING IN THE AMERICAN MARKET. Here is a photostat of the title page. It shows that the Fascist Italian Ministry awarded Pagnucco a gold medal for that thesis, which dealt enthusiastically with the doings of the Mussolini crowd in Italy.

"In 1936 Pagnucco was one of 14 university students who were awarded cash scholarships from a fund collected by GENEROSO POPE, wealthy newspaper publisher, and to which Mr. Pope himself gave \$1,000. (For years before that, and later, Mr. Pope was often attacked by Carlo Tresca, both in print and in public speeches, because of the pro-Fascist attitude of Mr. Pope's newspapers.

"Pagnucco made a speech of thanks in behalf of the recipients. After expressing gratitude to the givers of the money, Pagnucco said: 'The hour has arrived for the Italians in America to get a place in the sun, AS THE VICTORIOUS DUCE OF NEW ITALY SAID, and I hope that those who are benefited today MAY TOMORROW RECIPROCATE the good they are receiving by working efficiently and successfully for the growing elevation of Italian prestige in America.'

"In 1939 Pagnucco was Guest of Honor No. 2 at a grand ball given by an East Side Italian club under the patronage of the Fascist Royal Consul General. Other guests of honor listed on the ball program were widely known as Fascist propagandists.

"Because of time limitations, I am giving you only the high lights on Mr. Pagnucco. Other details are set forth in a pamphlet which our committee issued a few weeks ago.

Pagnucco Stays On

"When the Ernst group took their evidence to the District Attorney, they urged that Pagnucco be removed from the Tresca investigation. They declared that though he might be honest and efficient, Pagnucco could not be expected to examine effectively persons from whom he had received favors or honors. The Ernst committee also pointed out that the Tresca inquiry HAD NOT BEEN EXHAUSTIVE because two of Carlo's friends who were in a position to know about his political conflicts had never been called and questioned.

"Prosecutor Hogan refused either to displace Pagnucco or to ask him to withdraw from the case. For weeks he persisted in that refusal. Then, late in October, 1944, he learned that the Ernst committee and 117 well-known persons were about to go higher up to demand official action. Then Mr. Hogan suddenly changed his mind. He agreed now to put Assistant District Attorney ELEAZAR LIPSKY in direct charge of the investigation, under the supervision of his chief assistant, Jacob Grumet, head of the Homicide Bureau.

"Supposedly the new inquiry promised by Mr. Hogan was to begin at once. But November and December passed without any apparent start, while Mr. Lipsky was still kept busy with trial work. Not until 1,200 persons met in Webster Hall on January 11, 1945, and demanded action, did the calling of witnesses begin.

Why Did Lipsky Resign?

"Stung by continuing criticism, Mr. Hogan told the press next day that Mr. Lipsky was giving full time to the Tresca case. But on March 6 Mr. Lipsky was working on another mystery -- the killing of SALVATORE BIANCO, coat manufacturer, in an apartment building elevator. From that time until last month a deep fog of official silence settled down over the Tresca slaying.

"In December it became known that Mr. Lipsky had resigned from the District Attorney's office. He quit there January 1, returning to private practice. His reasons for resigning HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. I am not making any guesses as to what these reasons were.

"The Ernst committee, in its presentation to Mr. Hogan, declared that the Tresca investigation manifestly had not been exhaustive. They cited the names of two Tresca's friends who were in a position to have knowledge of his political enemies, and who had never been questioned by anyone in authority about what they knew of Carlo's life.

"After Mr. Lipsky had supplanted Pagnucco in the investigation, ONE OF THE FRIENDS was called and examined. BUT THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1945 PASSED, AND THE OTHER MAN MENTIONED WAS STILL NOT QUESTIONED.

"On December 26 last I wrote to Mr. Hogan about this, and I also told him that to my great surprise I had just learned that a third man, also a friend of Carlo Tresca, had never been questioned by any one connected with the investigation. Yet this man had long worked with Carlo and had been associated with him for years in the labor and racial

"movement. And if Mr. Pagnucco or any one in Mr. Hogan's office had read the newspaper immediately after the murder, AND IF THEY WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN SOLVING THIS CRIME, they could not possibly have omitted that man from their witness list. For pictures of him and of Tresca were published side by side in at least one daily newspaper at that time.

"AND WITHIN THE WEEK I have learned that a fourth individual who certainly should have been called has been ignored by Mr. Hogan's office.

"When Tresca was killed, he had in one of his pockets a check for several hundred dollars. It was signed by a good friend, a well-known labor-union official, who had had lunch with Carlo two days before the murder.

"Why was not the signer of that check asked what he knew about Carlo Tresca's life?

"All four of these friends of Carlo who seemed of so little importance to the District Attorney's office in this case are in this gathering tonight.

Did Pagnucco Scan the 'Progresso'?

"Soon after this murder, stories were published saying that Assistant District Attorney Pagnucco was scanning the back numbers of Tresca's paper, IL MARTELLO, looking for clues to persons with motives for doing him harm.

"Did Mr. Pagnucco also scan other newspapers for clues? Did he or any one else in the District Attorney's office examine and check the different stories in the press about the movements of the escape car used by the killers? The stories varied.

"Did Mr. Pagnucco or any one in the District Attorney's office read a news story on the Tresca case which appeared in Generoso Pope's paper, IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO, on January 12, 1944?

"That story said:

"A year ago yesterday evening an automobile with its motor running stood in West Fifteenth Street near the corner of Fifth Avenue.

"A little later two men left the office of the journal IL MARTELLO. Talking, the two walked across to the northwest corner of Fifteenth Street.

"The door of the automobile opened, and a man got out and proceeded toward the same corner. When he overtook the two men he commenced a deadly gun fire. The victim was Carlo Fresca. The murderer turned, ran to the automobile, and escaped.

"From that moment the state has vainly searched for the assassin. . . ."

"The point of this is that no English language daily that we have seen had the escape car in West Fifteenth Street before the shots were fired.

"How did Il Progresso know that the escape car waited in West 15th Street? Did it have any special knowledge on that point? Or was that story simply the logical assumption of a rewrite man who didn't take the trouble to look up the clips on the case, but wrote what he assumed gangsters would do? Again was this mere coincidence? Maybe it was.

"DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOGAN told the press a few days ago, (and I quote from the Herald Tribune of December 21): 'Several detectives are STILL DEVOTING THEIR FULL TIME to the case' unquote.

"If that is true, what are those investigators doing with their full time?

"The committee of which I am chairman expects an answer to this question in deeds, not in conventional denials in tomorrow's newspapers."



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New York - New York



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

February 28, 1946.

Director, FBI.

Re: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

Dear Sir:

Please refer to Bureau letter of February 4, 1946. Immediately after the receipt of your letter of reference I talked to Mr. Frank Hogan, District Attorney for New York County. At this time I conveyed to him the information set forth in letter of reference, as instructed by the Bureau. I then prepared a letter to him dated February 18th, confirming my comments, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Hogan, in reply, sent to this office letter dated February 19th, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enclosures-2

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*White memo directed
to New York
3/13/46
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EX-7

101-1335-406

16 MAR 4 1946



-406

234 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York 7, N. Y.

February 18, 1946.

Honorable Frank S. Hogan
District Attorney, New York County
155 Leonard Street
New York 13, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hogan:

Recently Mr. Jack Grumet of your office called at the FBI headquarters at Washington, D.C., with two of his associates, in connection with the Carlo Tresca murder case. It was explained that the Bureau had not conducted an investigation of the Tresca murder, and that in all probability the New York authorities were in possession of far more information than is the Bureau on this particular point. Mr. Grumet agreed that such was the case, but stated that he felt that the Bureau might have some information that might be of assistance in solving the case.

There are being attached hereto two copies of a memorandum regarding Carlo Tresca. It contains all information available to the Bureau which is believed to be of possible assistance in solving the case, with particular stress on information dated from 1940 to 1943. While complete in that respect, it does not include all the information in the Bureau's files with regard to Tresca, since this information is extremely voluminous and much of it dates back to the period of Tresca's activities shortly after the first World War, and does not appear to be of any practical value in connection with the present investigation by the New York authorities of the Tresca murder.

You may be assured that the FBI will be glad to cooperate with your office in this matter. Although the memorandum submitted contains all available information in the Bureau's files concerning Tresca which

61-1335-466
ENCLOSURE

Honorable Frank S. Hogan

is believed may be of value to you, please do not hesitate to call upon us in the event that you feel that there might be any other information which would be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosures 2
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DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

February 19, 1946.

Honorable E. E. Conroy
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
234 U.S. Court House
Foley Square
New York 7, New York.

Dear Mr. Conroy:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of, and thank you for, your letter dated February 18, 1946, in which you enclosed two copies of a memorandum regarding Carlo Tresca.

A quick look at the memorandum indicates that your office has gone to considerable trouble in preparing this digest of the information in your files which might bear on the Tresca murder. I am greatly indebted to you for your cooperation in this matter.

Your offer to be of further assistance, if additional information materializes, is also deeply appreciated.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

/s/

FRANK S. HOGAN

FSH:HM

ENCLOSURE

61-1335-406

REC-61-1335 -
SAC, New York

March 13, 1946

EX-21 John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

For your information, there appeared in the New York Times on February 15, 1946, a news item to the effect that two hoodlums were being questioned concerning two of New York's most celebrated unsolved murders of recent years, that of Carlo Tresca, noted radical editor who was slain on January 11, 1943, and that of Albert E. Langford, wealthy textile executive who was killed in his apartment at the Hotel Marguery, 270 Park Avenue, New York City, on June 4, 1945.

The news item stated that Mr. Edward S. Silver, Chief Assistant District Attorney of Kings County who is Acting District Attorney during the illness of Miles F. McDonald, issued a carefully guarded statement on the evening of February 14, 1946, in which he disclosed that,

"In an investigation by this office of various homicides in this borough, indications arose tending to show that the same persons may have been involved in several homicides committed in New York County. For this reason the Kings County District Attorney and the New York County District Attorney are working together to probe these New York angles. At the present time there are no concrete developments.

"This investigation is continuing. Among the cases being probed are the Langford, the Tresca and three recent hold-up murders in Manhattan."

"Mr. Silver refused to divulge the names of the individuals who had been questioned at his office for several hours previously. It was reported, however, that one of them was a convict now serving a sentence of from forty to eighty years in a State prison, and the other was a 'stool pigeon,' notorious to the police for his fabrications. Late in the evening, they were taken to the Bronx County Jail for the night.

"Assistant District Attorney Louis A. Pagnocco, of the staff of Frank S. Hogan, district attorney of New York County, and Captain Daniel Mahoney, in command of the Manhattan Homicide Squad, joined the Brooklyn authorities in questioning the witnesses. Mr. Hogan, who has been sharply criticized for his handling of the Tresca case, declined to discuss the matter yesterday."

In view of the political implications involved in the Tresca killing, you are requested to very discreetly ascertain, if possible, any information concerning the two individuals who may have been questioned regarding the Tresca killing and any other new developments in connection with this case. The Bureau desires to be kept continually advised regarding this matter.

MAR 15 1946 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-1335-406

21

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: March 13, 1946

FROM : D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: CARLO-TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

As you will recall, recently Mr. Jack Gromet, head of the Homicide Bureau of the New York County District Attorney's Office, called at the Bureau together with two of his associates, Mr. Thomas Faye and Mr. Joseph Titilow, and at the request of the New York District Attorney, Frank Hogan, were interviewed at some length concerning the assassination of Carlo Tresca, which occurred at 9:45 P.M., January 11, 1943, as he left the offices of his newspaper, "Il Martello," at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. Mr. Gromet, at the time of the interview, stated he realized that the Bureau has not conducted any investigation of the murder but stated that in view of the Bureau's many sources and the possible political implications in the Tresca killing, he thought that the Bureau might have some information that might be of assistance in solving the case.

Mr. Gromet was advised that the Bureau would, of course, be glad to cooperate with the New York authorities in this matter and a lengthy memorandum was prepared containing information in the possession of the Bureau which would be of possible assistance to Mr. Hogan. This memorandum was furnished to the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office for delivery to Mr. Hogan. On February 19, 1946, Mr. Hogan directed a letter to the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office thanking him for the memorandum regarding Tresca and stated, "A quick look at the memorandum indicates that your office has gone to considerable trouble in preparing this digest of the information in your files which might bear on the Tresca murder. I am greatly indebted to you for your cooperation in this matter. Your offer to be of further assistance, if additional information materializes, is also deeply appreciated."

For your information there appeared in the New York Times for February 15, 1946, a lengthy news item to the effect that the Tresca murder and the Albert E. Langford murder, which are considered two of New York's most celebrated unsolved murders, may have been committed by the same gang that was responsible for three recent holdup killings in New York, which information was revealed by Brooklyn authorities on February 14, 1946. The news item indicated that Edward S. Silver, Chief Assistant District Attorney of Kings County who is acting District Attorney during the illness of Miles F. McDonald, issued a carefully guarded statement in which was disclosed the following:

"In an investigation by this office of various homicides in this borough, indications arose tending to show that the same persons may have been involved in several homicides committed in New York County. For this reason the Kings County District Attorney and the New York County District Attorney are working together to probe these New York angles. At the present time there are no concrete developments."

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57 APR 3 - 1946

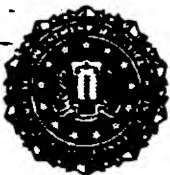
EX-111
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EX-6
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The news account stated that Mr. Silver refused to divulge the names of the individuals who had been questioned in his office for several hours previously. It was reported, however, that one of them was a convict now serving a sentence of from 40 to 80 years in the State Prison, and the other was a "stool pigeon" notorious to the police for his fabrications. For your information, Albert E. Langford was a wealthy textile executive who was killed in his six-room apartment at the Hotel Marguery, 270 Park Avenue, New York City, June 4, 1945.

RECOMMENDATION:

There is attached a letter to the New York Field Division requesting that they discreetly ascertain any new developments concerning the two suspected individuals who may have been responsible for the Tresca murder.

Attachment



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York 7, New York



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

May 6, 1946

DIRECTOR, FBI

Re: CARLO TRESKA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I
(Bureau file 61-1335)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated March 13, 1946, requesting the New York office to discreetly ascertain, if possible, any information regarding the two individuals mentioned by Chief Assistant District Attorney EDWARD S. SILVER of Kings County, in a statement issued on the evening of February 14, 1946.

Confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, under appropriate pretext, contacted Assistant District Attorney WILLIAM PEARLMAN of Kings County, who furnished him with the following information regarding the investigation of the homicide report in the statement of February 14, 1946.

The investigation conducted by the District Attorney's office at Kings County was in connection with the killing of FERDINAND BOCCIA, alias "The Shadow". The shooting and killing of BOCCIA took place at the CIRCOLO CRISTOFORO COFFEE SHOP AND CLUB at 533 Metropolitan Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. According to Mr. PEARLMAN, one JOHN TAFURI, who resides at 466 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York, and has a place of business opposite the CIRCOLO CRISTOFORO, received a phone call from members of an unidentified gang, and he was asked if FERDINAND BOCCIA, alias "The Shadow", was in the club playing cards. TAFURI indicated that BOCCIA was there. Later on the shooting and killing of BOCCIA took place.

According to Confidential Informant [redacted] TAFURI at one time was implicated in a hold-up at 166 Johnson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. He also indicated that one MIKE MIRANDA was indicted for the homicide. However, he has not yet been apprehended and is at large. He is believed to own a restaurant somewhere around 50th St. in New York City.

JTG:VJA
100-9744

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10

MAY 8 1946

Letter - Director
5/6/46
NY 100-9744

62, 670

The informant was, however, unable to ascertain the names of the two individuals mentioned in the statement of February 14, 1946, that were being questioned by the District Attorney's office. However, it was the opinion of confidential informant [REDACTED] that whenever homicides, involving underworld gangs are committed that the members thereof are usually acquainted with various homicides previously committed. It was undoubtedly with this in mind that the District Attorney of Kings County thought he could obtain information shedding some light on the murder of CARL WRESCA.

Confidential informant [REDACTED] indicated that he would advise the New York office if any information regarding the identity of the two individuals in question came to his knowledge.

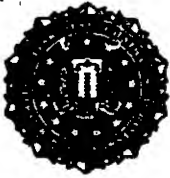
An attempt was made by Special Agent [REDACTED] to contact Assistant District Attorney JOACHIM TITOLO, a former schoolmate of the agent, under appropriate pretext. Mr. TITOLO, connected with the District Attorney's office, New York County, recently called at the Bureau in connection with this case, together with JACK GRUMET, head of the Homicide Bureau. It was ascertained, however, that Mr. TITOLO no longer is connected with the District Attorney's office, having resigned very recently. It is believed from the nature of remarks heard at the District Attorney's office that Mr. TITOLO, who was recently a Lieutenant Commander with the Naval Intelligence, may have resumed intelligence work, in view of the fact that he alleged he was going to South America to organize offices for a large import and export firm.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

JTG:VJA
100-9744



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____



Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

*Classified by
W49 PC
1-27-0*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 13, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY-I
(Bureau file 61-1335)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of May 6, 1946,
in connection with the above captioned case.

I am forwarding herewith two copies of an article
which appeared in the New York Herald Tribune on May 7,
1946, which reflects that the homicide of FERDINAND SOCCIA,
alias "THE SHADOW", occurred on September 19, 1934, and that
one of the individuals accused of the homicide is VITO GENOVESE
and another is MICHAEL MIRANDI.

Very truly yours

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY, SAC

61-1335-409

ENCL

ENCLOSURES (2)

JTG:EN
100-9744

EX-18

RECORDED

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161-1335-409

30 MAY 1946

(FIVE)
29

MAY 20 1946

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE
Tuesday, May 7, 1946

GENOVESE TRIAL IN 1934 SLAYING
OFF TIL JUNE 6

State Wins Delay to Bring From Italy
Another Man Also Accused of Crime

Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz, in Kings County Court, yesterday set June 6 as the day VITO GENOVESE must stand trial for allegedly taking part in a 1934 homicide.

The defense was ready to proceed yesterday, but the state was not. JULIUS HELFAND, Assistant District Attorney, asked originally for a two-month delay on the ground it would take that long to return from Italy another man allegedly involved in the crime.

GENOVESE, forty-four, was indicted on August 7, 1944, for first-degree murder. Similarly indicted were five other as yet unapprehended members of the Unione Sicilone, a secret organization reputedly given to mulcting and extortion in the old Sicilian fashion.

Was Seized in Italy

They are charged with killing FERDINAND BOCCIA, called "The Shadow", in a club at 553 Metropolitan Avenue, Brooklyn, on September 19, 1934. The fatal shooting, police said at the time, developed over the division of profits of \$150,000 from fleecing a victim in a crooked card game.

GENOVESE was taken into custody in Italy in November, 1944, where he was reported to be working as an interpreter on the staff of Charles Poletti, then a colonel serving as regional commissioner of the Allied Military Government in Rome. GENOVESE was believed to have fled to Italy in 1937, when he was named by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, then special rackets prosecutor, as an unsavory associate of ALBERT MARINELLI, former Clerk of New York County.

The other man still in Italy is believed to be MICHAEL MIRANDI, one of those named in the indictment. Mr. HELFAND said

61-1335-409
New York file 100-9744

NY 100-9744

MIRANDI wasn't returned sooner mostly because of the war. He said that extradition proceedings have been instituted, and he wanted both defendants to stand trial together.

Laxity Was Charged

George J. Beldock, appointed District Attorney of Kings County for the latter part of 1945, charged last October, when running for election to that office, that the office of his predecessor, WILLIAM O'DWYER, now Mayor, had been lax in dealing with the case. The murder happened when William F. X. Geoghan was District Attorney of Brooklyn.

"Police arrested the killers," Mr. Beldock charged then, "and the men who hired them -- MIRANDI and GENOVESE. But all were quickly discharged. It was another case to file and forget."

Hyman Barshay, GENOVESE's attorney, argued yesterday that the state has no proof as yet that the MIRANDI being extradited is the same man named in the indictment. Originally Judge Leibowitz ordered the trial to start yesterday, but then changed his mind after listening to further argument and set June 8 as the date.



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation



New York, 7, New York

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

*Declassified by
6049 PC
O 1-27-77*

May 28, 1946
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

RE: CARLO TRESKA;
INTERNAL SECURITY - I
(Bureau File #61-1335)

Reference is made to my letter dated May 13, 1946, in connection with the above-captioned case.

62,670

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, furnished the New York Office with a copy of a photograph of MICHAEL MIRANDI, with aliases, Michael Morandi, Michael Morand, Frank Cussi, who is being sought by the New York City Police Department for the homicide of FERDINAND BOCCIA.

Two copies of this photograph with MIRANDI's description are being furnished for the Bureau's information.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge

Encls. (2)

JGG:FCS
100-9744

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&
INDEXED
34
EX-66

61-1335-410

57 JUN 4 - 1946

WANTED FOR MURDER



MICHAEL MIRANDI

Aliases MICHAEL MORANDI, MICHAEL MORANDI,
FRANK RUSSI

(11- Age 40 years; height 5 feet, 4 1/4 inches; weight 160 pounds;
black hair; brown eyes. Last known address 629 East Olive
Street, Long Beach, L. I., N. Y.

66-1335-410 } Enclosure

fn

61-1335-411

CHANGED TO

64-24311-34

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: September 10, 1946

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESKA;
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

62, 670 VITO GENOVESE, concerning whom previous information has been forwarded to the Bureau in connection with his trial for the murder of one BOCCIA in Kings County, Brooklyn, New York, was acquitted according to Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau. The reason for the acquittal was the fact that the testimony of the accomplice, who testified against GENOVESE, could not be corroborated.

Consequently, Judge LEIBOWITZ, who presided at the trial, released GENOVESE on the basis of the rule of law that the testimony of an accomplice must be corroborated by independent proof which tends to connect the defendant with the crime.

No further information is being forwarded regarding VITO GENOVESE in view of the fact that this individual is being currently investigated by the New York Office in the CAPGA CASE.

JTG:HJR
100-9744

58 SEP 23 1946

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7 SEP 18 1946

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: December 30, 1946

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

Your attention is called to the fact that on November 22, 1946, the New York Herald Tribune carried an article entitled, "Thomas Seeks Facts on 1943 Tresca Murder." The article reflected that NORVAN THOMAS, the nationally known Socialist, was prompted by the slaying of JOSEPH R. SCOTTORIGGIO to send a letter to District Attorney HOGAN relative to the unsolved murder of CARLO TRESCA. The letter was partially set out in the Herald Tribune as follows:

"The death of Joseph Scottoriggio, an active Republican campaign worker in Vito Marcantonio's district, as the result of his being beaten by thugs, has raised the question of the degree to which this was a political murder. We understand that your office is, as it should be, busily investigating that crime.

"This inquiry ought to revive interest in the deliberate and premeditated assassination of Carlo Tresca almost four years ago. In the case of Mr. Scottoriggio it is possible that murder was not intended.

"Murder was the only intention in the death of Carlo Tresca. It is, moreover, well nigh certain that Tresca's assassins acted from political motives, or were hired by men who acted from such motives, taking revenge because of their victim's effective attacks upon one form of totalitarianism or another—Fascism or Communism.

"The failure to apprehend the murderers or even to solve beyond peradventure of any doubt the specific motivation behind the Tresca killing will stand as an encouragement to the employment of assassination in American political quarrels.

"For months nothing has been heard from your office about the Tresca case. . . . Have you dropped it—or relegated it to the long list of unsolved crimes in New York County? If you are still working on it, have you any hope of a solution?" . . .

According to the article, Mr. HOGAN'S office had not answered the letter.

On November 25, 1946, the Herald Tribune, in an editorial entitled "Crime and World Politics," commented upon the shooting of the adviser to the Ukrainian delegate, Mr. GREGORY STADNIK. In connection therewith, the editorial stated that it would be idle to pretend that there is no political crime in New York. It thereafter referred to at least two unsolved homicides of a political nature and cited those of CARLO TRESCA and JOSEPH SCOTTORIGGIO.

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61-1335-413

15 JAN 2 1947

JTG:RAA
100-9744

December 30, 1946

The Bureau is hereby advised that the New York Field Division is placing the above-captioned case in a closed status in view of the fact that no apparent active investigation of the homicide is presently being conducted by the New York authorities. However, the Bureau will be kept currently advised of any developments and information of a pertinent nature which may come to the attention of the New York Field Division.

61-1335-414+415

CHANGED

64-24310-38+39

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY (I)

DATE: 11/1/47

Quoted below for the Bureau's information is an item by NORMAN THOMAS which appeared in the "New York World Telegram" of October 17th, 1947. The matter concerns the resolution by New York City Councilman EDWARD RAGER calling for a new investigation of the TRESCA murder case by the District Attorney and the F. B. I.

"Seeking Way to Trace Slayers of Carlo Tresca
By Norman Thomas.

"It is gratifying to learn that Councilman EDWARD RAGER introduced a resolution in the City Council calling for a new investigation of the CARLO TRESCA murder case by District Attorney Hogan's office, inviting of the FBI into the case by Mr. HOGAN, and 'a new and independent' inquiry by the Police Department.

"This action comes opportunely - on the eve of a Justice for Tresca Conference, to be held at the Hotel Touraine in Boston on Sunday, November 2. Spokesmen for labor and liberal organizations meeting there will seek to 'find some new way to impel the New York authorities to run down the slayers' of Tresca, crusading Italian editor, shot in the 1943 dim-out. That crime is widely regarded as a political murder because of Tresca's attacks on totalitarian regimes. The Boston effort deserves all possible support.

"Manhattan."

JTG:KW
100-9744

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Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

G. I. R. 2

al

4/16

(Handwritten signature/initials)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

DATE: November 14, 1947

new

I am enclosing herewith two copies of a speech made by NORMAN THOMAS, Chairman of the TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE. The speech was made at the Justice for Tresca Conference held at the Hotel Touraine in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 2, 1947. It was printed in the Italian Socialist weekly newspaper "La Parola" of New York on November 15, 1947.

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61-1335-417

G.I.R.-8

**"WILL THE MYSTERY OF TRESKA
MURDER EVER BE SOLVED?"**

"Speech by Norman Thomas, Chairman, Tresca Memorial Committee, at the Justice for Tresca Conference, Hotel Touraine, Boston, Mass., Sunday, November 2, 1947.

"My own belief, and that of our committee generally, is that the killing of CARLO TRESKA was a political murder. Occasionally we have heard whispered rumors that CARLO was killed for revenge following some personal quarrel. But no credible evidence has come from any corner to show that this murder was anything but a political crime.

"It is unfortunate, but I suppose inevitable in the present temper of the world, that the TRESKA case has become the pivot of acrimonious political controversy, to the point that some of those known for years as CARLO's friends will not appear on the same platform to honor his memory because of their ideological differences. But TRESKA had long fought all kinds of totalitarianism. And there is no denying that he had scathingly attacked persons in both the Fascist and Communist camps, in his Italian journal and in public speeches, and in turn had been assailed by individuals and groups in both those quarters.

"To CARLO TRESKA, more than to any one else, belongs the credit for driving the Fascisti Black Shirts off the streets of New York. He was long on Mussolini's death list. On the other hand, in 1938, after he had appeared before a Federal Grand Jury in New York as a witness in the JULIET STUART POYNTZ disappearance case, he was denounced as a police informer in Communist publications. From one of those denunciations TRESKA, answering it in his own journal, (Il Martello, The Hammer), drew a sinister meaning. All this has been dealt with in detail in our committee's literature And after his death fingers of suspicion were pointed in the direction of both Communists and Fascists.

"Our committee, however, has always avoided making any controversial guesses as to the identity of those who planned and committed the TRESKA murder. Finding the guilty is a job for the District Attorney's office and the New York City police.

"Across three years we have frequently been critical of District Attorney FRANK HOGAN's office. Our committee has said, with good reason, that it conducted a slipshod and indifferent investigation of the TRESKA case - that it was either lax or incompetent, or both. We have (The emphasis on certain words in the sentence I have just read in my own).

"PAGNUCCO's association with Fascists did not stop when he entered the District Attorney's office. Formerly a court interpreter, he was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney on January 14, 1938. Almost two years later,

ENCLOSURE

61-1335-417

On November 25, 1939, PAGNUCCO was Guest of Honor No. 2 at a grand ball staged by Famee Furlane, a so-called fraternal club on East 34th Street. The high patron of that affair was the Fascist Royal Consul General GAETANO VECCHIOTTI. The souvenir journal on that occasion contained a full-page portrait of PAGNUCCO, with a caption calling him "our popular consular." It also included a three-page history of the club, in which he referred to one member as a "heroic participant" in the Ethiopian War, that was of Fascist aggression against a weaker nation.

"This evidence concerning PAGNUCCO's past was presented to District Attorney HOGAN by a committee of responsible citizens headed by Attorney MORRIS L. ERNST. They urged that PAGNUCCO be removed from the TRESKA investigation. They declared that however honest his intentions, he obviously could not be expected to examine effectively persons from whom he might have received favors or honors, or their friends. The ERNST committee also pointed out that the TRESKA inquiry had not been exhaustive, because two of CARLO's intimates who were in a position to know about his political enmities had never been questioned.

"Prosecutor HOGAN refused either to displace PAGNUCCO or to ask him to withdraw from the case. Then, late in October, 1944, he learned that the ERNST group, fortified by the signature of 117 well-known men and women, was about to present the PAGNUCCO evidence to Governor DEWEY and to urge him to appoint a special prosecutor to take full control of the TRESKA inquiry. On the eve of an election, Mr. HOGAN suddenly changed his mind. He agreed now to put Assistant District Attorney ELEAZAR LIPSKY in direct charge of the TRESKA investigation, under the supervision of his chief assistant, JACOB GRUMET, head of the Homicide Bureau. Mr. HOGAN agreed also that PAGNUCCO would be taken off the TRESKA case, but reserved the right to consult ^{with him} if he needed be on any of the evidence that he had previously developed.

"To my mind that sudden action of Mr. HOGAN in promising a new investigation was a smooth political trick. It staved off embarrassing publicity that inevitably must have come if the ERNST group's planned appeal to Governor DEWEY for a special prosecutor had been made.

"Let me repeat that Mr. HOGAN had agreed to take PAGNUCCO off the case.

"In the face of all the discouraging factors that have confronted us in our efforts to get justice for the memory of CARLO TRESKA, I, for one, have not given up hope. So long as we do not let this atrocious crime be forgotten in the public mind, there is a continuing chance that the TRESKA mystery will yet be solved. Other murders have been cleared up after the passage of years. The Statute of Limitations does not apply to murder.

"Tomorrow, or next week, or next month, evidence to crack this case may come from some unexpected source. Some one who knows the truth about

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"CARLO's killing may talk, for his own excellent reasons.

"Meanwhile, it is my belief that so long as the murder of CARLO TRESCA remains unsolved and unpunished, no one who is outspoken in his political opinions in the great City Of New York is safe. That murders by gangsters with political connections can go unpunished in any American city is a sorry reflection on the integrity and capacity of our whole democracy."

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

FROM : J. P. Coyne *JP*

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA

DATE: November 29, 1947

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Egan _____
 Mr. Gurnea _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Pennington _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____

On November 20, 1947, Assistant Attorney General Quinn forwarded to the Bureau a copy of a letter which was directed to the Attorney General on November 10, 1947, by Norman Thomas, Chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee. Mr. Thomas' letter suggests, in substance, that inasmuch as one of the chief suspects in the Tresca murder case is out on bail on a Federal charge that the Department of Justice might logically look into his present and past associations. Mr. Thomas observes that if such a Departmental inquiry is made, "your investigators were to uncover any information about the hiring of gangsters to commit murder or other crimes, District Attorney Frank Hogan might welcome that evidence." In referring a copy of Thomas' letter to us, Mr. Quinn states "It is thought that while the Tresca case is not one of Federal jurisdiction, you might be interested in receiving the information contained in the enclosed letter in connection with Carmine Galante."

We have an extensive file on Carlo Tresca and a considerable amount of information concerning the Tresca murder. The information in these files is briefly summarized hereinafter.

BACKGROUND

Tresca, an Italian by birth, came to the United States in 1904, a political refugee having been sentenced to a prison term of two years for creating political agitation in Italy. From the time of his arrival here he was always considered a fanatical anarchist. He was an IWW organizer in the famous Lawrence Textile strikes in 1912. He was a prominent member of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee; he was likewise prominent in many labor strikes and had the questionable reputation of being the only perpetual suspect in the files of the New York Police Department in so far as the placing and throwing of bombs was concerned. He was the editor of "Il Martello", a rabid anarchist Italian language newspaper. He was a member of the American Committee to Defend Leon Trotsky in 1937 and 1938.

MURDER OF TRESCA

Tresca was shot and killed on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper "Il Martello" in New York City. Being a well-known figure, his case was given a tremendous amount of publicity. Tresca's friends immediately charged that the Communists were responsible for the murder and the Communists counterattacked with the allegation that agents of the OVRA (Italian Secret Police) had committed the crime. From the outset, the New York Police Department and New York State District Attorney Frank Hogan's office had only two good suspects: Carmine Galanti, an habitual criminal who was referred to in the Thomas letter, and Jesus Serrante Vidali, alias Carlos Contreras, a known Communist and alleged GPU agent in Mexico City.

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EX-77

Mr. Ladd

61

STATUS OF CASE ON THE AFOREMENTIONED SUSPECTS

While the Bureau assiduously refrained from initiating any active investigation concerning the Tresca murder, we did endeavor to keep ourselves currently advised of the status of the investigation conducted by Mr. Hogan's office and.

[REDACTED]

According to newspaper reports, Galenti was seen by two New York City parole officers one and one-half hours before the murder in the car which is said to have been utilized by the person or persons who committed the crime, Galenti was taken into custody immediately following the murder and was retained in custody as a material witness for a very lengthy period of time.

On September 13, 1943, Frank Nuccio who was also referred to in Thomas' letter and who is described in New York circles as a petty bootlegger was taken into custody as a second material witness in the slaying of Tresca. Shortly after Nuccio was taken into custody Confidential Informant [REDACTED] advised that the New York Police had nothing against Nuccio - that he was apprehended in order that an excuse might be furnished for still holding the chief suspect in the case, namely, Carmen Galenti.

62,620

BUREAU'S INTEREST IN THIS CASE

The murder of Tresca, of course, was not violative of any statute over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction and, consequently, as indicated previously we assiduously refrained from conducting active investigation with respect thereto. We did, as a matter of fact, receive a request from the Department for investigation through the medium of a memorandum forwarded to the Director on January 12, 1943, by Edward J. Ennis, Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department. Ennis requested an investigation to determine if there was any connection between the subject's death and alien enemy or subversive groups in the United States. In the Bureau's memorandum of reply it was pointed out to Mr. Ennis that compliance with his request would necessitate the investigation of a murder which is clearly within the jurisdiction of local law enforcement agencies and that it would, in all probability, establish a precedent for similar action on cases of this type arising in the future. Mr. Ennis was also advised that in accordance with the FBI's policy in refraining from concerning itself with cases solely within the local law enforcement jurisdiction, the requested investigation was not being undertaken.

In the meantime, it should be noted that the then Attorney General, while not desiring an active investigation by the Bureau, was interested in any information coming to our attention concerning the murder and, consequently, as pertinent data were received they were called to his attention, it being made very clear to

Mr. Ladd

interested officials of the Department, however, that the FBI was not undertaking any active inquiries since the case was clearly without our investigative jurisdiction.

Early in 1946 in accordance with arrangements made with the Director's Office by District Attorney Frank Hogan of New York County, the head of the Homicide Bureau of that County called at the Bureau with two of his associates for the purpose of discussing the Tresca murder. On that occasion it was pointed out that although an intensive, continuous investigation had been conducted by the New York authorities and since they had been unable to solve the case that they would be deeply appreciative if the Bureau would furnish them any information in its possession which might be of assistance to them in solving this murder. It was explained to them that since we had not investigated the murder in all probability they were in possession of far more information than we on this particular point. The representatives of Hogan's office were quite appreciative of this fact, but stated that in view of the Bureau's many sources and the possible political implications of the Tresca killing, it was felt the Bureau might have some data in its possession which might be of assistance in solving the case. This request was called to the attention of the Director and subsequently thereto a letter was forwarded to the New York Office on February 4, 1946, attaching a summary of the pertinent data in our possession relative thereto. The summary in question included all the pertinent information obtained as a result of a review of the main file on Tresca, as well as approximately 1500 collateral "C" references. With Bureau approval, this summary was personally delivered to New York County District Attorney Frank Hogan.

OBSERVATIONS

The status of the Tresca case today remains unchanged, both from the standpoint of its solution and from the standpoint of jurisdictional responsibility. The case is unsolved and it remains one without the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau.

As regards the memorandum from Mr. Quinn, it should be noted that we have considerable background data in our possession concerning Carmen Galenti and it should further be observed that the New York County District Attorney's Office likewise has such background. It, therefore, appears that no purpose would be served by the Bureau in taking any action on the Quinn memorandum other than the following. Since there exists the possibility that the Department in acknowledging Mr. Thomas' letter will advise him that it was being referred to the FBI, we should clarify that matter in the records of the Department. To that end, there is attached an appropriate reply to Mr. Quinn. Other than the dispatching of the reply, no action need or should be taken.

Assistant Attorney General T. Vincent Quinn

December 1, 1947

Director, FBI

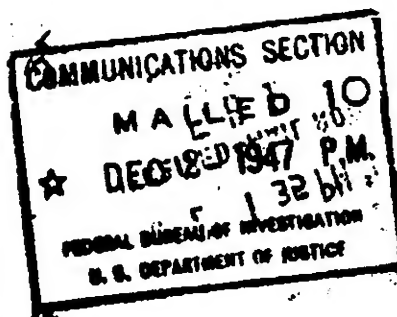
CARLO TRESKA

EX-16
RECORDED

Reference is made to your memorandum of November 20, 1947, attaching a copy of a letter which was forwarded to the Attorney General on November 10, 1947, by Mr. Norman Thomas, Chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee.

Since as you indicate this matter is without Federal jurisdiction and inasmuch as the content of Mr. Thomas' letter may be of interest to the office of the District Attorney of New York County, which office has already conducted extensive inquiries relative to the murder of Carlo Tresca, it is suggested that you may desire to consider the advisability of furnishing the content of Mr. Thomas' communication to that office.

Please be advised that no action is contemplated by this Bureau relative to the subject matter of your memorandum of November 20, 1947.



U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DEC 21 1 34 PM '47

[Handwritten signature]

32 DEC 25 1947
JPC:TD R374

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: November 20, 1947

FROM : T. Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General

TVQ:WFF:DTJ

SUBJECT: Carlo Tresca

146-7-51-1092

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Gurnea	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Pennington	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Forwarded herewith for your information and any action you may deem appropriate are copies of a letter received from Norman Thomas in his capacity as Chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee.

It is thought that while the Tresca case is not one of Federal jurisdiction, you might be interested in receiving the information contained in the enclosed letter in connection with Carmine Galante.

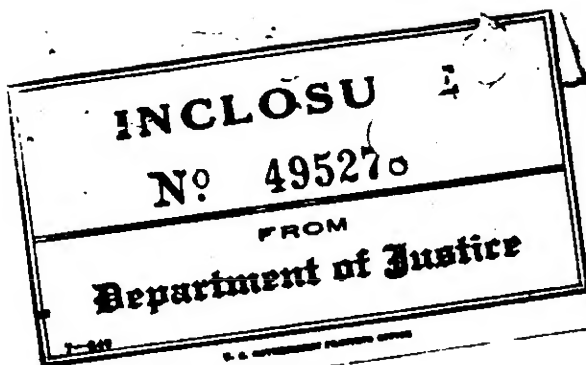
Enclosure No. 495278

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161-1335-411
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34 DEC 6 1947

RECEIVED



SCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

2 East 19th Street

New York City 3

November 10, 1947

Hon. Tom A. Clark,
Attorney General
of the United States,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

This will recall your courteous letter of July 30, in which you invited us to tell you if we thought of any way in which your Department might conceivably help in solving the Carlo Tresca murder case.

Lately a circumstance has arisen which gives reason for me to offer a quiet suggestion about something you might do without treading on any jurisdictional toes.

On September 4, 1947, Carmina Galante, first suspect in the Tresca case, was arrested in Brooklyn on a federal charge — possessing equipment for the manufacture of alcohol. He and three other men were arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Fay in that borough, and were released in \$500 bail each for action by the Federal Grand Jury. We have seen nothing in the press about this matter since.

One of the men arrested with Galante was Joseph Di Palermo, of 246 Elizabeth street, Manhattan. That address is within a block or two of the garage in which the escape car in the Tresca murder was kept.

Other pertinent facts in this situation are these:

Tresca was shot to death on the evening of January 11, 1943. A few hours later an abandoned Ford sedan, with all doors open and keys in the ignition lock, was found five blocks from the crime scene. Next day two parole officers declared that they saw Galante, a paroled convict in a hold-up, step into that same car a couple of hours before the Tresca killing. They identified the car by its license number.

419
Enclosure

Late on January 12 Galante was picked up at Elizabeth and Prince Streets. Grilled at length, he denied knowing anything about the crime. Several months later Galante was returned to Sing Sing as a parole violator, to serve out his term, which was up in December, 1944. Then, despite the assertions of the parole officers about his being in the escape car, Supreme Court Justice Andrew J. Ryan ruled that there was no ground on which the Parole Board could hold Galante any longer, and he was released.

Meanwhile the police, through checking with locksmiths on the ignition keys, had located the garage in which the escape car had been kept. On September 10, 1943, they arrested Frank Muccio, a small-time bootlegger living at 265 Elizabeth Street, less than a block from where Galante had been picked up.* For nearly two months Muccio was detained under \$25,000 bail. Then, in November, despite strenuous protest by Assistant District Attorney Grumet, the bail was reduced to \$5,000 and Muccio was set free by General Sessions Judge Donnellan. Twice since then Muccio has been arrested on bootlegging charges, and gave new bonds.

My immediate point is to suggest that inasmuch as Galante is now out on bail on a federal charge, your Department might logically look into his present and past associations, especially in view of these special circumstances which connect him with the vicinity of the murder-car garage.

It seems to me that if, in such a quest in a federal case, your investigators were to uncover any information about the hiring of gangsters to commit murder or other crimes, District Attorney Frank Hogan might welcome that evidence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Norman Thomas

Norman Thomas
Chairman

BT-ME

* That garage, with a capacity of eight cars, was close to Muccio's home.

419
Enclosure

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 23, 1948 ^{EE} ₈₀

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESKA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

I am enclosing herewith copies of an article appearing in The New York Times on January 11, 1948, which reflects that NORMAN THOMAS, Socialist party leader, requested Governor DEWEY to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the assassination of CARLO TRESKA. Mr. THOMAS is quoted as having said that he just learned from the District Attorney's Office that the FBI had been consulted on January 8, 1946, but nothing new had developed.

JTG:RAA
100-9744

Enc. 2

JAN 23 1948

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21 JAN 20 1948

EX. 103

331
53 FEB 9 1948

4

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ASKED IN TRESCA CASE

Governor Dewey has been asked to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the assassination of Carlo Tresca, liberal editor, five years ago today. This was disclosed yesterday by Norman Thomas, Socialist party leader, in a speech at the Rand School, 7 East Fifteenth Street.

Addressing 300 persons at the annual memorial services for Mr. Tresca, who was slain by unknown gunmen at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street, Mr. Thomas criticized District Attorney Frank S. Hogan for his failure to solve the case and insisted it was a "political murder."

The letter to the Governor from Mr. Thomas, who is chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, said that Mr. Hogan had not called in the Federal Bureau of Investigation to work on the case. Mr. Thomas said, however, that he just learned from the district attorney's office that the FBI had been consulted on Jan. 8, 1946, but that nothing new had developed. Mr. Thomas declared that he was writing to Governor Dewey to amend this part of his letter.

"Lately some fresh clues have come to us, two leads to possible vital information about the Tresca killing," he went on. "They come from sources that we regard as trustworthy. Both point in the same general direction. We will investigate them thoroughly, in the hope that they may bring the solution of this case perceptibly nearer."

Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union and a member of the Tresca Reward Committee, announced that a permanent \$5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the slayers of Mr. Tresca has been set up by the committee and is being underwritten by 100 of his friends.

The meeting had been scheduled for the site of the killing, but was moved indoors because of the cold. Tonight, at 9:40, the committee will gather for brief ceremonies at the spot where Mr. Tresca was killed.

Item from the

New York Times

January 11, 1948

67-1335-420

TRESKA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

112 East 19th Street
New York City 3

November 15, 1948

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Lately I had occasion to send to District Attorney Frank S. Hogan of New York County some information which recently turned up about two unsolved major criminal cases -- the murder of Carlo Tresca and the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz.

In view of the international implications in both cases, it occurs to me that this information may have value for your office, and accordingly I enclose a copy of the memorandum which I sent to Mr. Hogan on November 10.

This has to do with disclosures by Benjamin Gitlow, former secretary-general of the Communist Party of America, in a new book.

He declares that the Tresca killing stemmed from a feud between Tresca and Enes Sormenti (alias Contreras, alias Vidali), agent of the OGPU (Soviet Russian secret service.) That feud, Mr. Gitlow states, had grown out of the murder of one of Tresca's close friends in Spain, a slaying which is laid by the author to Sormenti and George Mink, American seaman and "pioneer Communist organizer on the water front." Both Sormenti and Mink were assailed as assassins by Tresca in his journal, Il Martello.

Another factor leading to the Tresca murder, Mr. Gitlow asserts, is that Tresca dared to buck the OGPU on the Poyntz case, about which Tresca gave information to a federal grand jury here, and for which action he was denounced as an "informer" by the Communists.

The Gitlow book goes into detail about the alleged kidnaping and murder of Miss Poyntz, a disillusioned agent of the OGPU, whom the author declares was ordered "liquidated" when it was reported that she was writing about her experiences. Mr. Gitlow indicates that she was kidnaped in New York County and murdered in Dutchess County, not far from the Roosevelt estate. . . . Our memorandum covers the main points in the Gitlow narrative, but likely you will want to obtain a copy of the book, if you have not seen it, to get the whole picture.

Please see an additional note
at end of enclosed.

WT-ME

Sincerely,

/s/ Norman Thomas
Chairman

61-1335

61-1335-42

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RECORDED - 98

63 NOV 22 1948

Tresca Memorial Committee

112 East 19th Street
New York City 3

December 2, 1948

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In addition to the letter I wrote you on November 15, with accompanying memorandum about the Carlo Tresca and Juliet Stuart Poyntz cases, I now enclose a copy of a supplementary letter on the same subject, which I have sent to District Attorney Frank S. Hogan of New York County. It will explain itself.

Sincerely,

Norman Thomas
Norman Thomas
Chairman

NT-ME

RECORDED - 93

INDEXED - 93

EX-37

DEC 8 1948

*Let ack
12-8-48
jema*

64-1335-423

504

THE COMMITTEE: Norman Thomas, Chairman; Angelica Balabanoff, William Henry Chamberlin, Frank Crosswaith, J. Dewey, Varian Fry, Aren S. Gilman, America Gonzales, Sidney Hertzberg, John Haynes Holmes, Sidney Hook, Harry K. Listen M. Oak, A. Philip Randolph, Sheba Strunsky, Oswald Garrison Villard, M. R. Warner, Edmund Wilson, Bertram D. Wo

112 East 19th Street

New York City 3

December 1, 1948

Hon. Frank S. Hogan,
District Attorney,
County of New York,
155 Leonard Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hogan:

Back in town between speaking engagements, I write to thank you for your letter of November 16. It was gratifying to have word that the Homicide Bureau would study the references to the Tresca and Poyntz cases in the Benjamin Gitlow book, and that if such action is warranted Mr. Gitlow will be called before the Grand Jury.

This note needs no acknowledgement. I just want to voice a couple of additional thoughts about the situation.

In scanning his book, it struck me that Mr. Gitlow's declarations with regard to the two cases appeared to have considerable more solidity than did those of Louis Francis Budenz in his autobiography.

I noted particularly that Mr. Gitlow made the flat statement that the Carlo Tresca murder grew out of a feud between Carlo and Vidali; that he related the details of the alleged kidnapping and murder of Miss Poyntz in the manner of one who had information from some source close to the facts; and also that he spoke of himself as one of those to whom Tresca said shortly before he was killed that he knew Vidali (whom Carlo had denounced as a commandant of assassins) was then in New York.

So I felt that there was strong reason to hope that Mr. Gitlow could be more helpful toward solving the Tresca murder than was Mr. Budenz.

As I write I have before me a U P dispatch from Paris in last Sunday's Times reporting that seven members of the Cagoulards (a hooded semi-Fascist organization) had been sentenced to death for the assassination of two anti-Fascist Italians, the Rosselli brothers, whom Tresca counted as friends.

Sincerely,

HFT-ME

Norman Thomas
Chairman

ENCLOSURE

64-1335-423

Delivered by
1049 PC
127-77
CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: December 8, 1948

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED - 93

61-1335-423
Attention: Colonel Donald H. Calloway

EX-37 From: John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ENEA SORMENTI, was.,
Carlos Contreras, Vittorio Vidali
SECURITY MATTER - C

On November 15, 1948, Mr. Norman Thomas, Chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, New York, forwarded to this Bureau a communication containing a copy of a memorandum dated November 10, 1948, which apparently was prepared by his Committee. He indicated that Sormenti is now the head of the Cominform in Trieste.

In view of the information set forth therein concerning Sormenti, I am forwarding to you herewith as enclosures a copy of Mr. Thomas' letter dated November 15, 1948, as well as a copy of the memorandum referred to dated November 10, 1948. Mr. Thomas has been advised of this referral. This is being forwarded to you for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

Enclosure

JEM:mac SPECIAL MESSENGER

★ DEC 10 1948 ★

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DEC 10 1948

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESKA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

DATE: December 24, 1948

There are being enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an article appearing in the "New York World Telegram," dated December 7, 1948, entitled "HOGAN Orders New Murder Probe In Mystery Death of Carlo Tresca," for the Bureau's information.

25 ENCL
114
EX-76

ENCL. ATTACHED

JTG:MTM
100-9744

G.I.R.-7

61-1335-424

61-1335
II

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51 JAN 10 1970

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1948.

Hogan Orders New Murder Probe In Mystery Death of Carlo Tresca

By VICTOR LASKY.

A new inquiry into one of New York's most celebrated unsolved murder mysteries of recent years—that of Carlo Tresca, picturesque radical editor, who had been hated by both Fascists and Communists—has been ordered by District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, the World-Telegram learned exclusively today.

The inquiry was touched off by the recent publication of the memoirs of Benjamin Gitlow, who was expelled in 1929 as general secretary of the American Communist party on direct orders from Prime Minister Josef Stalin.

Mr. Gitlow alleged in his "The Whole of Their Lives," published by Scribners, that Mr. Tresca had been assassinated because he dared buck the Soviet secret police in exposing the mysterious disappearance of a prominent American Communist, and because he had foiled a Stalinist attempt to seize control of the Italian-American Victory Council, sponsored by the Office of War Information.

Had Anarchist Following.

Mr. Tresca, who did not believe in political parties, but had a devoted following in the Italian colony which subscribed to his anarchist views, was shot to death on Jan. 11, 1943, at the northwest corner of Fifth Ave. and 15th St. as he left the office of his Italian-language newspaper, Il Martello (The Hammer).

Because of the wartime dimout, Mr. Tresca's companion could not identify the assailants or the murder car which sped away. Later it was determined that the murder car had been purchased in the name of Charles Pappas with a fictitious Glendale address.

"Who was Pappas?" Mr. Gitlow asked in his book. "The police never found out or did not care to find out. Was he the Pappas, the strike man of the Communist Party?"

Hogan Probing Pappas.

Mr. Hogan reportedly is having a confidential source in the New York City Police Department, the New York Times learned, to determine if Pappas was a Communist.

Informed of this development, Mr. Gitlow told the World-Telegram today:

"Everything possible ought to be done to clear up this case—which I consider a political murder. I would be willing to help out in any way that I can. I believe I can furnish Mr. Hogan with leads that he can follow up."

The Tresca case, as other murders such as the Scottoriggio slaying in Rep. Vito Marcantonio's bailiwick, has in recent years been pigeon-holed as "unsolved" by authorities.

Norman Thomas Active.

But a group of liberals headed by Norman Thomas, calling themselves the Tresca Memorial Committee, with the aid of City Councilman Edward Rager, Manhattan Republican, has attempted to keep the case alive.

Mr. Thomas has charged Mr. Hogan's office with having permitted what apparently was a political murder to slide into obscurity by a slipshod and indifferent investigation.

However, Mr. Hogan now reportedly takes the position that if Mr. Gitlow's revelations can be borne out he will throw in more manpower in an effort to break the six-year-old case.

Red Agent Named.

At least one leading international Communist agent was named by Mr. Gitlow as possibly knowing a good deal about the assassination. He is "the OGPU assassin Gormenti, alias Carlos Contreras, alias Vittorio Vidali."

Vidali heads the Communist party in Trieste and is leading the Cominform struggle against

Marshal Tito, having vowed to fight the Yugoslav dictator to the death.

Mr. Tresca had conducted in his newspaper a feud with Vidali ever since it was proved to his satisfaction that the Communist agent was implicated in the assassination of a close friend in Spain during the civil war, Mr. Gitlow declared.

'No Direct Cause.'

"The feud was a contributing factor but not the direct cause of the (Tresca) assassination," Mr. Gitlow declared.

It was after Mr. Tresca had turned over to the New York Police a dossier on the mysterious disappearance of Julie, Stuart Royntz, a leading Communist who had indicated she was about to break with the party, that the colorful radical editor told Mr. Gitlow of Vidali's presence in New York.

"Where he is I smell murder," Mr. Tresca had declared. "I wonder who will be the next victim."

Shortly afterward Mr. Tresca was murdered.

"Unsolved murders are a Communist technique," Mr. Gitlow observed. "The assassins of the Communist world superstructure have committed them on all continents and in all countries. They are masters in the creation of unsolved mysteries."

CLIPPING FROM THE

World-Telegram

12-7-48

NEW YORK, N.Y. TRIBUNE

61-1335-424-Enclosure

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. WHITSON

DATE: 2-7-49

FROM : H. B. FLETCHER

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

At 10:50 a.m. today, while talking with ASAC Belmont, New York, I inquired as to whether the New York Office was making any current inquiries concerning the murder of Carlo Tresca as asserted in the attached newspaper item.

Mr. Belmont stated there was no outstanding investigation at this time.

Attachment

HBf:cmw

61-1335-425

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61-1335-425

5-100

D.A., FBI Sift New Leads in Tresca Killing

The District Attorney and FBI were following new leads today which revived hope that the 6-year-old slaying of Carlo Tresca, anti-Fascist editor, might be solved in the "not-too-distant future."

More than 200 persons gathered in Labor Temple, 242 E. 14th St., last night to mark the anniversary of Tresca's assassination.

Donald Harrington, national chairman of the Workers Defense League, read a statement issued by Norman Thomas, chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, which said:

"Late because of new developments, we have had reason to be hopeful that the Tresca mystery might be solved in the not-too-distant future. New leads have been under investigation by both the District Attorney and the FBI."

Other speakers who paid tribute to Tresca's fight against Fascism included former Municipal Court Judge Dorothy Kenyon, Frank Crosswaith, Negro Labor Committee chairman, and Dr. Harry W. Laidler.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Mem Whitton

NBF 2-7-49

61-1335-425

LETTER FROM AL

Set a Home News

JAN 12 1949

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York 7, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 6, 1949

Director, FBI

Re: CARLO TRESKA
INTERNAL SECURITY-I

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED] a source of information on Italian matters to the New York Office, upon being contacted furnished the following information in connection with the above captioned case: G.I.R.

He recalls that during the evening of January 11, 1943, which was the date of the assassination of CARLO TRESKA [REDACTED] following a telephone conversation, visited the home of AUGUSTO BELLANCA.

AUGUSTO BELLANCA was at that time vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. Both he and [REDACTED] were discussing the Massini Society and the problem of permitting the Communists to participate in some of its activities on the basis of unity in the war effort. BELLANCA favored permitting Communists to participate in the Massini activities but [REDACTED] was strenuously opposed and he pointed out to BELLANCA that it was part of the Communist strategy to infiltrate in various organizations under the camouflage of unity.

The conversation between BELLANCA and [REDACTED] was interrupted about 9:35 when BELLANCA received a telephone call. [REDACTED] relates that although he could not gather the import of the conversation in its entirety he remembers that BELLANCA upon answering the phone inquired of his caller, "Do you know who is here?", ---apparently referring to [REDACTED]. However, BELLANCA must have been interrupted because he never followed this through and became very reserved upon listening to something his caller said to him. The conversation continued but [REDACTED] was unable to gather what was being said inasmuch as BELLANCA was

JTG:HWV
100-9744

57 JUN 21 1949

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RECEIVED

61-1335-426

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Letter to Director
100-9744

doing the listening and the caller did most of the talking. When the phone call terminated BELLANCA came into the room in which [redacted] was waiting and uttered a phrase in Sicilian which when interpreted in English purports to convey the impression that the speaker knew something of great importance but would not tell it. The significance of the statement made by BELLANCA was grasped by [redacted] who was also a Sicilian, but he said nothing inasmuch as BELLANCA did not take him into his confidence.

[redacted] that he noted, however, that whereas during that part of the conversation which preceded the phone call BELLANCA was very friendly and open minded [redacted] subsequent to the phone message he became quite reserved and reticent.

[redacted] left for his home. Upon arriving he received a telephone call from a newspaperman of his acquaintance who inquired if he knew that CARLO TRESCA had been assassinated earlier that evening. [redacted] was ignorant of what transpired and upon being advised of this fact he hastened to call AUGUSTO BELLANCA. However, when he inquired of BELLANCA if he knew that TRESCA had been killed, BELLANCA had shown no amazement and acted very cool. [redacted] thought this unusual inasmuch as they all knew TRESCA quite well. The following day Magistrate J. ROLAND SALA, who was the son of GIOVANNI SALA an associate of AUGUSTO BELLANCA, called GIROLAMO VALENTI, editor of the Italian weekly newspaper "LA PAROLA", and suggested to VALENTI that, although several stories were circulated that TRESCA may have been killed either by Communists or Fascists, that they, the socialist group, should put the blame on the Fascists.

VALENTI related this incident to [redacted] and he also told [redacted] that he ascertained that Magistrate SALA was in fact making the suggestion over a phone in the offices of BELLANCA'S Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

Later [redacted] and many others who knew TRESCA were called by the District Attorney of New York County. [redacted] was interviewed by Assistant District Attorney ELEASER LIPSKY. He related to LIPSKY the incident of the telephone call which occurred in BELLANCA'S home the night TRESCA was killed..

[redacted] said that he later ascertained through LIPSKY that BELLANCA denied that he, MONTANA, was visiting BELLANCA'S home the evening of January 11, 1943. LIPSKY telephoned [redacted] and told him that he was amazed at the

Letter to Director
100-9744

different versions of this occurrence but that he had verified by independent means that [REDACTED] story of visiting BELLANCA was true.

[REDACTED] suggested that it was his opinion that BELLANCA knew a great deal more concerning the assassination of TRESCA than he ever revealed to the proper authorities. There is no question in [REDACTED] mind that the motive for the assassination was political rather than personal. He knows that BELLANCA has always had contacts with the underworld in New York and it was his belief that BELLANCA, when he received the telephone call on 9:35 p.m. on the evening of January 11, 1943, was probably receiving some firsthand information regarding the assassination of TRESCA. He was further made suspicious by BELLANCA'S denial that [REDACTED] was at his home on the night in question and further by the attempt of BELLANCA'S group to spread the rumor that the Fascists were responsible for the assassination of TRESCA.

The above information is being forwarded in view of the Bureau's past interest in this case, however, no action is contemplated by the New York office.

Very truly yours,


EDWARD SCHEIDT, SAC

61-1335-426

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : R. T. HARBO
FROM : D. J. Parsons
SUBJECT: CARLO TRESKA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I.

DATE: Oct. 12, 1949

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

61-1335

There is attached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

Attachment

ENCLOSURE ON BULKY RAMP

*Detention file
main file
11-17-58*

61-1335-41

71 OCT 17 1949

61-1335-427

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: February 23, 1950

FROM : SAC, Miami *CHQ*SUBJECT: JESUS SORRENTE VIDALI, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bureau file 61-1335)

64-24310-31

ReBulet August 29, 1945, instructing that the stop placed with Immigration and Naturalization Service at Miami, Florida, be continued.

The Bureau is requested to advise whether this stop should still be maintained.

LOP:mjs
100-8260

*Let to Miami
date 3-20-50*

RECORDED - 19

EX-103

FEB 27 1950

61-1335-428

JFK/Gallahan

61-1335-428

SAC, Miami

March 20, 1950

EX-80 Director, FBI

JESUS SORRMENTE VIDALI, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to Miami letter dated February 23, 1950, requesting advice as to whether a stop notice currently in force concerning the captioned subject with the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Miami, Florida, should be continued. Please be advised that this stop notice may now be removed.

[REDACTED]

DFXC:gmu

b1

MAR 20 1950
COMM-FBI

APR 5 1950

61-1335-428

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

INDEXED - 82

DATE: February 8, 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

BAUMGARDNER

[REDACTED]
made available to this office a copy of that union's newspaper entitled, "Giustizia" for February, 1950. This issue contains several articles in Italian on the TRESCA case which may be of interest to the Bureau. The articles are found on page 5 and page 10, entitled respectively, "On the Seventh Anniversary of the Assassination of CARLO TRESCA" and "The Day of a Hero".

The first article is a text of a radio speech delivered by LUIGI ANTONINI, Secretary of Local 89 and Vice-President of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The second article bears the signature of LUIGI ANTONINI.

It is requested that the Bureau cause these articles to be translated inasmuch as they may contain material of interest, and forward a copy thereof for inclusion in the New York file. For this purpose a copy of the aforementioned newspaper is being forwarded herewith.

VITTORIO VIDALI

[REDACTED] suggested that in view of the fact that there have been persistent rumors to the effect that CARLOS CONTRERAS, a known Soviet Agent and presently a Communist leader in Trieste, may have caused the assassination of TRESCA, it might be fruitful if information regarding CONTRERAS' activities in this regard could be obtained from the Yugoslav Intelligence. It should be noted that CONTRERAS, who at one time enjoyed the confidence of the Yugoslavs, is now the Cominform Communist leader in Trieste in opposition to the Tito Communists there. [REDACTED] therefore, suggests that the Yugoslavs might not be unwilling at this time to furnish information derogatory to CONTRERAS in connection with TRESCA's assassination if by doing so they could embarrass or eliminate CONTRERAS as a threat to them in Trieste.

Consequently, the above suggestion is being forwarded to the Bureau, which may desire through its sources abroad to initiate such contacts which might shed light on the activities of CONTRERAS in connection with TRESCA's homicide.

Enc. (1)

JTG:MWT
100-9744

RECORDED - 82

INDEXED - 82

ALL SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.
LAB. ACTION AND REPORT

T-7108

EX-33
RECEIVED

61-1335-429
61-1335-429

RECORDED - 82

Date: March 20, 1950

To: Mr. Jack D. Neal
Associate Chief
Division of Security
Department of State
515 22nd Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: CARLO TRESCA
INTERNAL SECURITY - IT

You will recall that Tresca, an Italian by birth, was shot and killed on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper "Il Martello" in New York City. Since Tresca was a well known figure, this case was given a tremendous amount of publicity. Tresca's friends charged that the Communists were responsible for the murder and the Communists alleged that the murder had been committed by agents of the Italian Secret Police. As you know, the case remains unsolved.

Recently an informant of known reliability in discussing the Tresca case made reference to the persistent rumors which arose at the time of Tresca's death and which have prevailed to date to the effect that Carlos Contreras, aka., Vittorio Vidali, reportedly a Soviet agent, may have caused the assassination of Tresca. The informant has suggested that since Vidali is presently a leader of the Communist Party in Trieste, it might be fruitful if information regarding the activities of Vidali in relation to Tresca could be obtained from Yugoslav Intelligence authorities. The informant notes that Contreras, or Vidali, who at one time enjoyed the confidence of the Yugoslavs, is now the Cominform Communist leader in Trieste in opposition to the Tito Communists there. The informant suggested, therefore, that the Yugoslavs might not be unwilling at this time to furnish information derogatory to Contreras in connection with Tresca's assassination if by so doing they could embarrass or eliminate Contreras as a threat to them in Trieste.

DPIC: 00

MAR 20 1950
COMM - FBI

APR 5 1950

61-1335-429

The above information is submitted to you for your consideration and possible use. It is submitted to you in confidence with the request that no dissemination thereof be made outside your Department.

cc - Director

Central Intelligence Agency

2210 E Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

Attention: Colonel Robert A. Schow

(CONFIDENTIAL - BY SPECIAL MESSENGER)

61-1335-429

Carlo Tresca

Section 12

SAC,

New York
Director, FBI

March 16, 1950

CARLO TRESKA
INTERNAL SECURITY - I
(Your file 100-9744)

dated

February 8, 1950.

Disposition of the foreign language material submitted in
this connection is set forth below:

Returned herewith.

Enclosure

- REGISTERED MAIL

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

ENCLOSURE

MAILED 17
MAR 13 1950
COMM - FBI

RECORDED
INDEXED - 112 60
MAR 8 1950

MAR 28 1950

56

61-1335-430

G.I.R.A

DELETED ALLAHAN

TRANSLATION FROM THE ITALIAN

From "GIUSTIZIA"

February 4, 1950

ON THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF CARLO TRESCA

January 7 (sic) was the 7th Anniversary of the assassination of CARLO TRESCA. LUIGI ANTONINI commemorated it with this memorial speech on "The Voice of Local 89":

Wednesday, January 11 is a date which we cannot forget.

It reminds us that seven years ago, CARLO TRESCA was assassinated.

Seven years have passed since that fatal evening when the anarchist agitator fell in the semi-darkness of Fifth Avenue; the crime remains shrouded in mystery, and the criminals - those who committed it and those who instigated it - are still free and unpunished.

Someone stated several days ago that if the TRESCA crime had been solved, the crime which tolled our organizer LUNYK as its victim, would also have been solved.

How a conclusion of this kind can be reached, I cannot explain. It must be noted that the assassins of LUNYK have already been identified that they are fugitives and that a warrant of arrest has been issued for them. All the crimes of gangland are usually uncovered, except in rare instances, sooner or later. All the crimes of fascists have also come to light.

The crime which claimed TRESCA as its victim gives rise, because still unsolved, to every kind of conjecture and a labyrinth of hypotheses.

I have no accusations to make, against anyone. I am only setting down statements of fact. Which are the crimes that remain systematically enveloped in mystery? Has the truth been discovered on the disappearance of JULIET STUART PINEZ?

Has the mysterious assassin of the Russian General KRIVITSKY been discovered?

MGM
3/15/50

61-9335-430
ENCLOSURE
61-1335-430

And was it not because he courageously tried to penetrate these mysteries, because he sought rhyme and reason for the assassination of CARILLO BERNIERI in Spain, that CARLO TRESKA drew on himself the threats and wrath of the C.P.U. and of its servants?

Elimination of individuals was on the daily agenda. The court jester" having become the jester of STALIN confirmed his characteristics of ape and parrot, publishing that famous pamphlet in which TRESKA's picture appeared on the first page, photographed as he left the District Attorney's Office where he had gone on the JULIET STUART ROSEN case.

I have no accusations to make. But the signer of the pamphlet almost accuses himself, with these words, which are his own:

"If he, CARLO TRESKA, has lost his sense of reason and his decency: then, dear friends and companions, for reasons of public welfare, for the sake of antifascism, it is our duty to put a STOP to his deleterious work..... Consequently: reasons of public welfare and in the interests of antifascism. It is a civic and social work that I carry on by taking an interest in CARLO TRESKA. Work of protection, of elimination from society of beings that are harmful to themselves and to the society that must accept them."

And so, the order word was elimination, and the jester, with supreme naivete, repeated it even in print.

I have never sought investigations in any specific direction. The specific direction was demanded instead, from the very first moment by Bolshevism, with its agents like EZIO ADDEI, the snake that CARLO TRESKA took to his generous heart and who, having snarled the case after the crime was committed, having warmed the benches of the District Attorney's Office for four weeks, passed openly into the service of TOGLIATTI and Cominform defamation.

Seven years have passed since the crime. The war is over. Fifth Avenue is once more brilliant with lights. But light has not yet been shed on the crime perpetrated the evening of January 11, 1943.

And when I think of TRESKA, I still recall the words of our conversation on Christmas Eve, a few days before his murder.

"The friend is here."

"What friend?"